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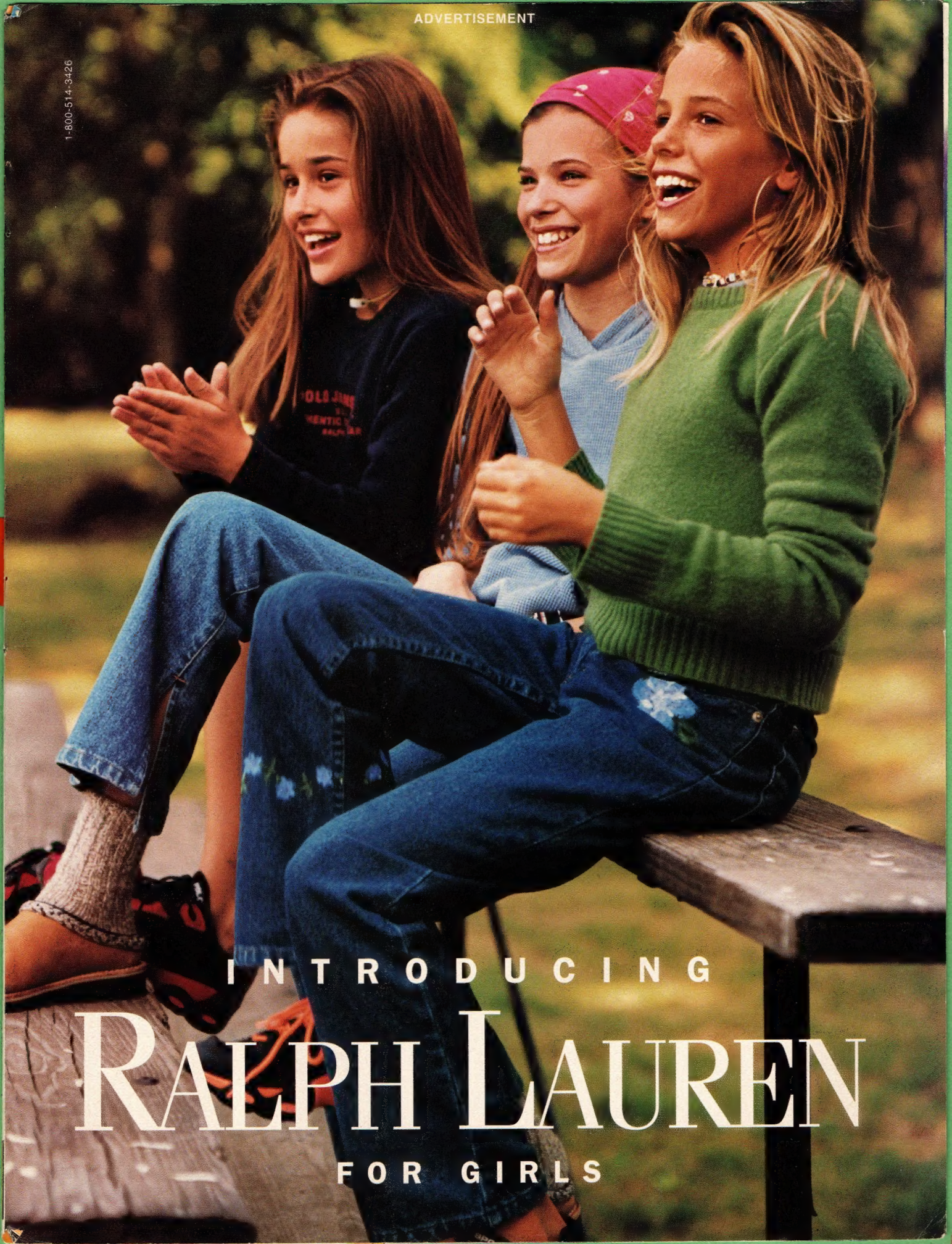

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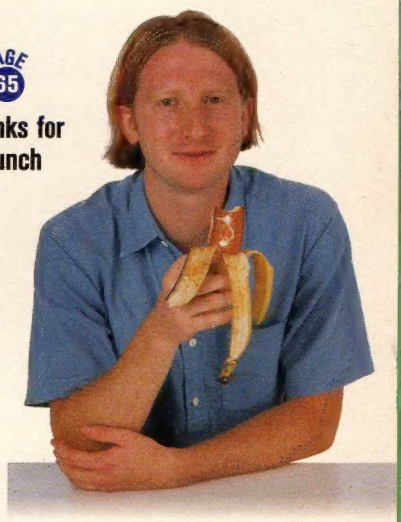

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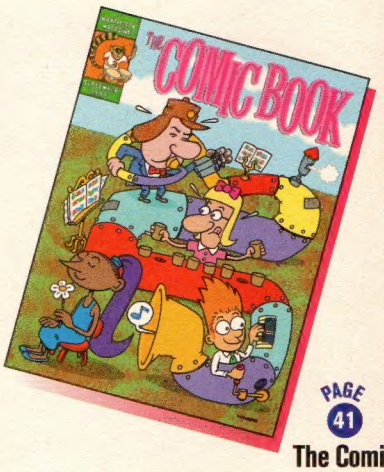

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ATTENTION:
When you see this
Real
it means the story is TRUE.

PAGE 87 Extreme Friends

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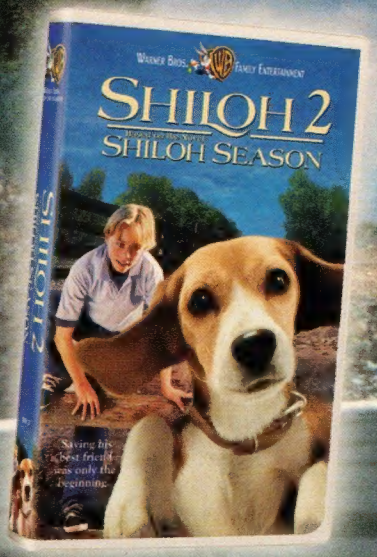
This Beagle's Back In Action!

Join Marty and Shiloh
as they face the toughest man
in the county, and risk everything
to turn him into a friend.



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ZACHARY BROWNE ANN DOWD WITH BONNIE BARTLETT AND ROD STEIGER FEATURING "I JUST NEEDED A FRIEND" BY RITA COOLIDGE CASTING LAURA SCHIFF PRODUCTION DESIGNER RIKKE ROSBACK DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOSEPH B. TINTFASS MUSIC BY JOEL GOLDSMITH
EDITOR TOM SEID DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY TROY SMITH BASED ON THE BOOKS BY PHYLLIS REYNOLDS NAYLOR EXECUTIVE PRODUCER SETH WILLENSON SUPERVISING PRODUCER MARK YELLEN ZANE W. LEVITT PRODUCED BY CARL BORACK DALE ROSENBLOOM SCREENPLAY BY DALE ROSENBLOOM DIRECTED BY SANDY TUNG

PG

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Letters to the Editors

Real

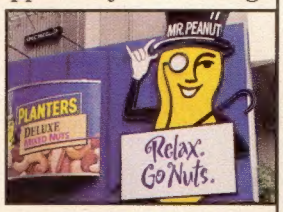
Dear Nick Mag,
My parents make me go swimming, and I don't want to. What should I do?

Michelle S., age 9
Manassas, Virginia

Dear Michelle,
Tell them that you have a weak bladder and you don't want to spoil the pool for everyone else.

Dear Nick Mag,
What would you do if a giant elephant stepped on your building?

Ali N.
Port Charlotte, Florida



Dear Ali,
We'd distract her by pointing out the giant Mr. Peanut on the Planters billboard next door *(above)*.

Dear Nick Mag,
When I put the prank tax form [from the April issue] on my parents' pile of tax forms, my niece told them it was a prank. What should I do to her?

Josie M., age 13
Sonoma, California

Dear Josie,
The prime way to provoke a prank spoiler is to play a prank on the perpetrator. The pullout-prank Pokémon cards in this issue are a perfect place to start.

Send your letters to:

Letters to the Editors
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE
1515 Broadway, 40th floor
New York, NY 10036

Or e-mail us at:
NickEditor@aol.com
Please include your name, age, address, and phone number.

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Revue Negri Art Assistant	Laura Garamond Editor-in-Chief	*Elisa Zapf Chancery* *Entertainment Editor*	Scott Willow Eastern Sales Director
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John-Ryan Caslon Assistant Editor	Tekton Jones Special Projects Designer	Palatino Sean Thompson Production Assistant	I've grown quite font of the staff. Zelda Van Gill Sans Roving Reporter
Carmen Monaco Contributing Editor	Debby Futura Designer	**Ironwood Richer** ART ASSISTANT	Susan Matrix Managing Editor
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Contributing Writers:
David Letterman, Geraldine Page, William Penn, Gabe Pressman, Booker T. Washington, William Wordsworth, Teresa Wright

Contributors:
Andrew Brisman, Becky Burcham, Meredith Hart, Robert Leighton, Ruth Lindy, Tom Mitchell

Editorial Intern:
Jessica Cutler

For subscription information, please see page 94.

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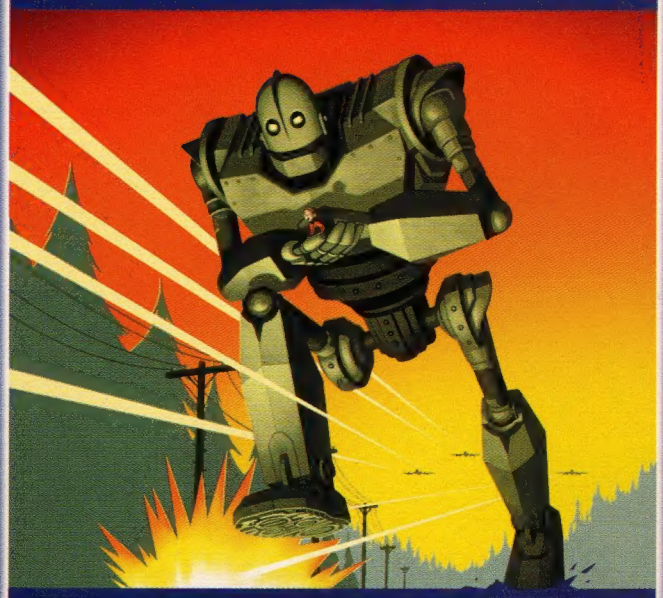
IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE!



THE IRON GIANT
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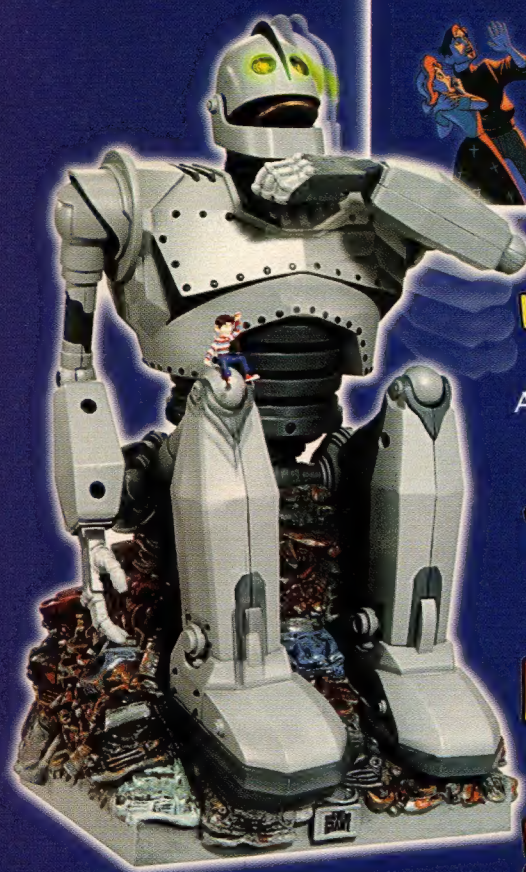

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Whatever We Want

A Lite-hearted Farewell

Real

Our neighbors on the 40th floor, the staff of radio station WLTW (also called Lite FM), have moved. We interviewed General Manager **Rona Landy** *(above)* as she scooted out the door.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: Where are your new offices?
RONA LANDY: On Sixth Avenue and Forty-Fourth Street [about a block away].

Will there be a pause in broadcasting while you move?
No. Our listeners expect us to be on the air twenty-four hours a day. So we'll maintain these studios while we do some trial broadcasts from our new offices. Then, when everything works, we'll move completely.

What will you miss about this building?
My view. When Mariah Carey was here, she was blown away by my view of the Hudson River and New York City. She said, "I wonder if I can get an apartment in this building."

Can we have your staplers?
Absolutely, because they always break.

Paging All Readers!

Real

You don't have to be a librarian to check out the books along the bottoms of our pages. You also don't have to be a deep thinker to appreciate the bookends displaying our page numbers. They're both part of this issue's celebration of all things printed—from magazines (such as this one) to trading cards (such as the ones on page 33).

Who's this bronze bombshell?

Real

Another useful number to help ease you into the next millennium.

COUNTDOWN HYPE 2000

Number of school days from the day after Labor Day until the year 2000: **74***

*WE'RE ASSUMING YOU GET DAYS OFF FOR COLUMBUS DAY, VETERANS DAY, THANKSGIVING, THE DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING, CHRISTMAS EVE (A FRIDAY), AND THE WHOLE WEEK AFTER CHRISTMAS. IF YOU HAVE DIFFERENT DAYS OFF, EITHER ADD TO OR SUBTRACT FROM 74. NO FAIR SUBTRACTING SICK DAYS AND SNOW DAYS IN ADVANCE, HOWEVER.

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8 TO 9 EXTREME PRIMETIME!

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8:00 PM	Animorphs	The Wild Thornberrys	The Wild Thornberrys	The Wild Thornberrys	The Wild Thornberrys	SpongeBob Squarepants
8:30 PM	Nick News	Rocket Power	Cousin Skeeter	Rocket Power	Cousin Skeeter	CatDog

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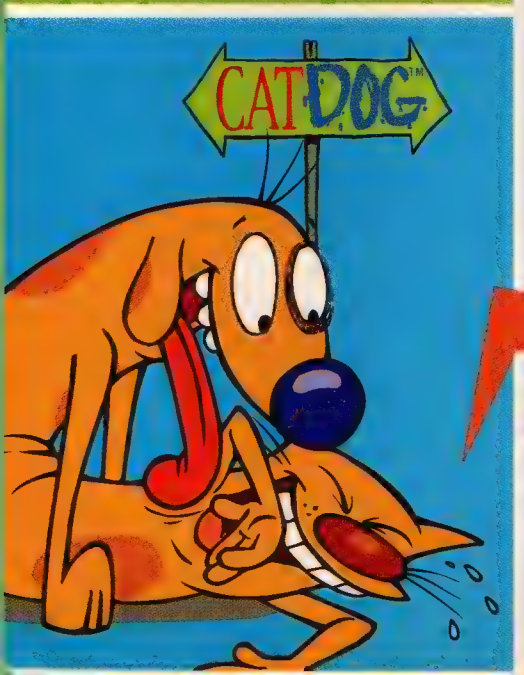
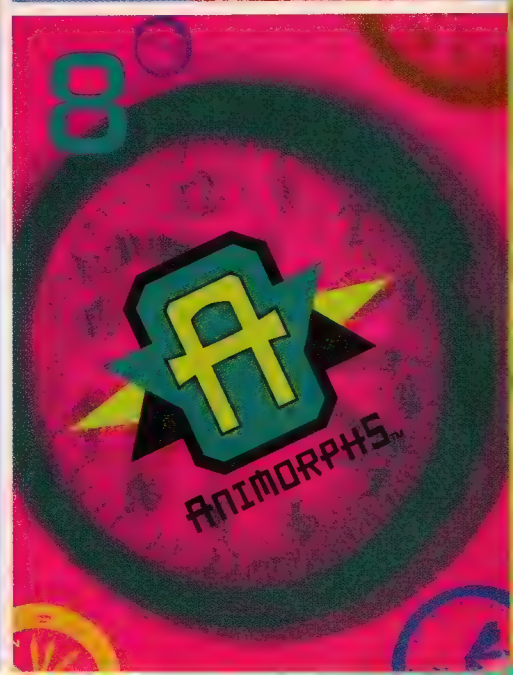




NICKELODEON

Reading the Stars

Real

See if you can match the celebrity with his or her favorite childhood book. Write the correct letter in each star. Our hints (which refer to the titles or authors) will help you out.

Answers on page 94.

BABYFACE
Singer
Aren't you curious?

JAKE LLOYD
of *The Phantom Menace*
The *sorce* is with him.

RACHAEL LEIGH COOK
of *She's All That*
Call the exterminator.

JADA PINKETT SMITH
of *The Nutty Professor* and *Scream 2*
We wonder what her favorite was.

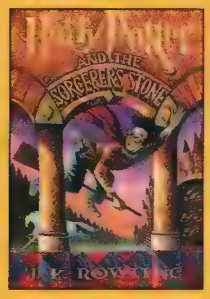
BEN SAVAGE
of *Boy Meets World*
He gave us an earnest reply.

DAVID ARQUETTE
of *Never Been Kissed* and *Muppets From Space*
What a wild and crazy guy.

ROZONDA "CHILLI" THOMAS
of TLC
Her career is in full bloom.

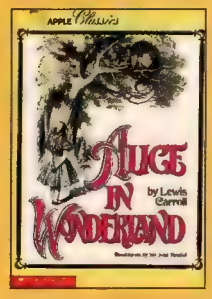
Has he ever been kissed by Muppets from space?

A



by J.K. Rowling

B



by Lewis Carroll

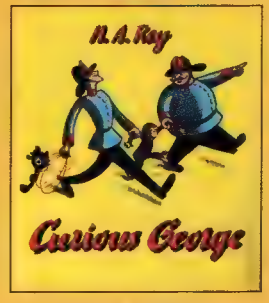
C

by Judy Blume

D

by Beverly Cleary

E



by H.A. Rey

F

by Maurice Sendak

G

by Ernest Hemingway

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BOOK HIM!

When we started putting together this issue about print, editor Chris Duffy *(right)* admitted that he had six library books left over from researching past issues. To the shock of his coworkers, the books had been sitting in his office for two years! We sent him back to the scene of the crime to return the books and face the music. Here's what he had to report.

That dastardly Duffy.

THE TERROR BEGINS

A few days before I returned my two-year-overdue library books, fellow editor Carmen Morais *(above, left)* showed me a news article about a woman in Florida who was *arrested* for having books that were only one year overdue. Carmen seemed to think this was funny.

DOORWAY TO DOOM

As I approached the steps to the Brooklyn Public Library (or the BPL, for short), I was racked with fear and guilt. What would the cost be? A quick calculation told me that if the fines were five cents a day, I owed at least $219. Would I go to jail if I couldn't pay? And more importantly, would Nickelodeon President Herb Scannell bail me out?

THE BIG PAYOFF

Keeping an eye out for escape routes, I entered the library and went to the return desk. Here, honest librarian David Hrivnak *(above, right)* ignored the $20 "gift" that I offered him to forget about my little slip-up. Then, to my shock, he told me my fine was only $30 for six books. David explained that the maximum fine for a late book at the BPL is just $5. (It's more if a book is lost.) I was relieved. So was my wallet.

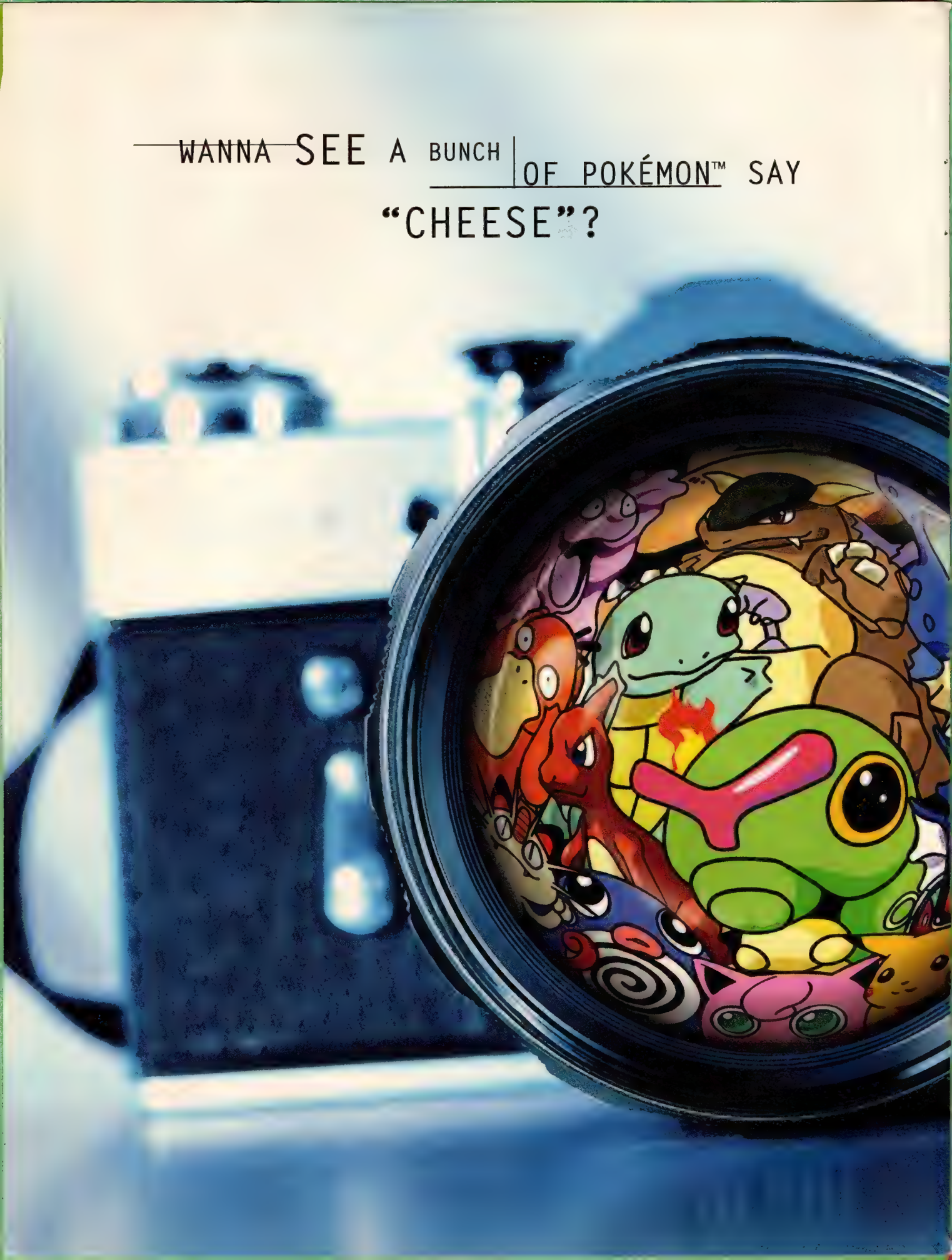
THE PRICES PEOPLE PAY

The BPL went easy on me, but don't count on *your* library being a cream puff. I did a little research on how other libraries deal with evil overdue-ers, who are responsible for 30 million unreturned books in the United States each year. Some libraries have amnesty days, when people can return late books for free. But many libraries give their worst late-returners' names to collection agencies and police departments. In another city, would I be editing from behind bars?

THE END?

So after two years of thinking the library police were after me, I can finally use my library card again.. I must still feel guilty, though, because the first books I checked out were *Crime and Punishment, Jailbird,* and *To Catch a Thief.*

~~WANNA~~ SEE A BUNCH OF POKÉMON™ SAY "CHEESE"?



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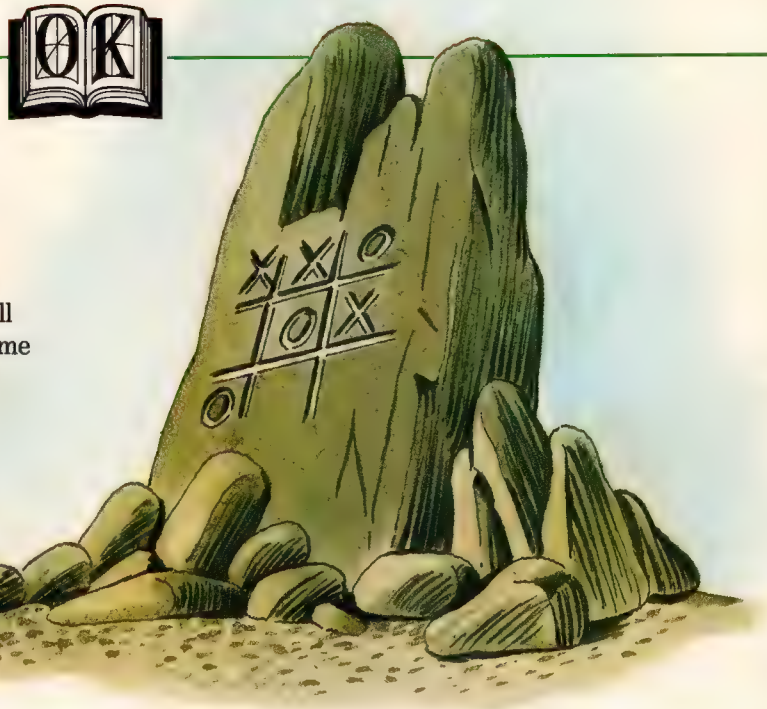
A NICKELODEON parody

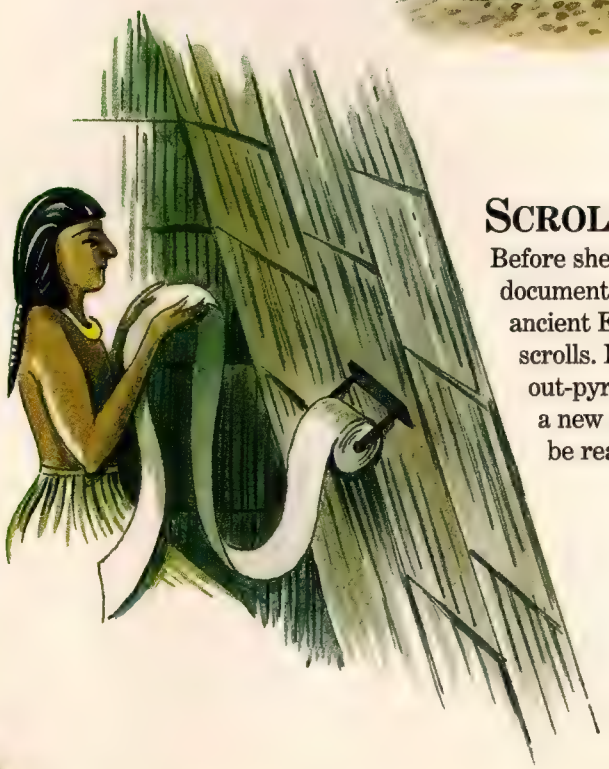
From the pages of...

THE ONLY KIDDINGSLEY CONCISE HISTORY *of* PRINT



EARLY CHISELERS

The earliest writing was chiseled onto large rocks *(see example, right)*. Scientists are still baffled by these early carvings, although some believe they represent a prehistoric landing pattern for ancient aliens.



SCROLLIN' BY THE NILE RIVER

Before sheets of paper were invented, people wrote messages and documents on scrolls. Under the short reign of Pharaoh Char Min, ancient Egyptians were encouraged to use soft, tissuey, scented two-ply scrolls. But back then, as today, the bathroom (or in those days, the out-pyramid) was a popular place to read. Readers soon discovered a new use for the cottony scrolls. As a result, no document could ever be read twice.

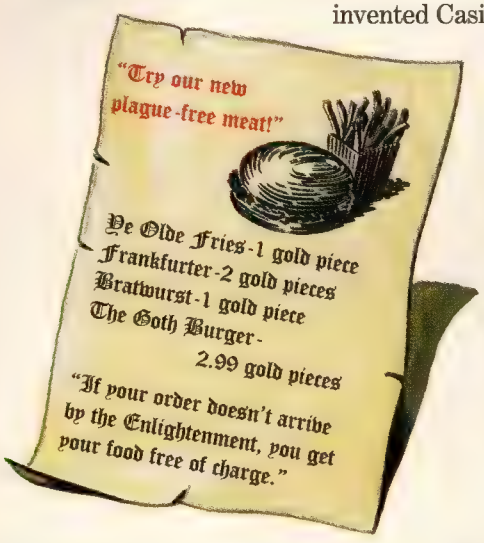
An early out-pyramid

The First Pens

Two things were needed to create the pen: a sharp point and a supply of ink. The example at left shows a very early, awkward pen used by scribes in the court of King Engelbert the Talkative. Although the squid provided a steady source of ink, the bird, whose talon was used as the point of the pen, often complained of feather cramps.

Dear Abbey

Museums today are full of illuminated manuscripts made by European monks. The monks of the Order of St. Vegas produced some of the most beautiful and brightly colored manuscripts in history. They used neon tubing in their books to achieve more vivid colors and to provide a source of light during Europe's Dark Ages. Unfortunately, the Vegasian Order was dissolved after its members invented Casino Night.

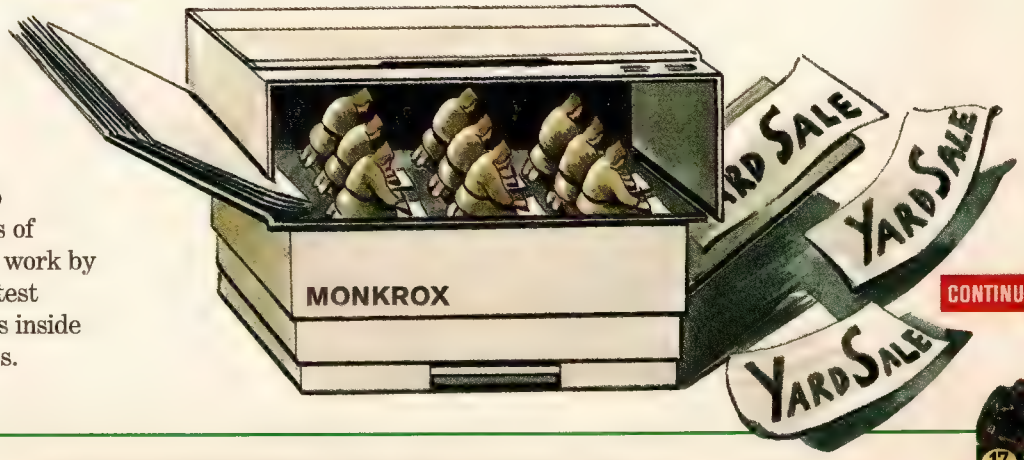

"Try our new plague-free meat!"
Ye Olde Fries-1 gold piece
Frankfurter-2 gold pieces
Bratwurst-1 gold piece
The Goth Burger-
2.99 gold pieces
"If your order doesn't arrive by the Enlightenment, you get your food free of charge."

Ready, Typeset, Go!

It is widely believed that the first European book made with movable metal type was a Bible produced in the 1430s by printer Johann Gutenberg. However, a printed document from the 1420s was recently found under the door of a take-out food scholar. Known as the Gutenburger Menu, the form was produced by Gutenberg's hungry cousin Gluteus Gutenburger, who ran a bratwurst stand in Hamburg, Germany.

Monk See, Monk Copy

Many people wonder what happened to the monks who hand-copied the great books of the Middle Ages. Put out of work by the printing press, the shortest monks eventually found jobs inside the first photocopy machines.



CONTINUED

Headline Ha-Ha

A good proofreader is important to any publication. A 19th century newspaper called *The Brooklyn Beagle* ran the headline shown in the scene at left in 1861. A misprint involving the word *apart* turned the *Beagle* into the laughingstock of the newspaper world.

Molten Typing Pool

In the days before computers and word processing programs, a fast typist was very valuable to any office. Blaze Pascal of Capslock, Maine, could type 68,000 words per minute and worked as the entire secretarial pool of the Slippenfall Insurance Company from 1920 to 1936. Her high-speed typing wore out a brand-new typewriter every 12 minutes.

After Word Processing

Computer technology has helped advance the art of printing, and it may revolutionize the work of writers as well. The latest cutting-edge word processing program, the Cheater 6000, enables the user to write a book report, novel, or set of encyclopedias by merely hitting F7 on her or his keyboard. Luckily, it's easy to spot an article written using this incredibly lazy and underhanded method: The last word in the document is always printed twice twice. ❑

ADVERTISEMENT

Sofa, So Good

Lynda Jones tracked down two artists who take printed matters into their own hands.

Real

You're Sitting on My Number!

When the phone company delivered piles of new telephone books to New York City artist Tom Sachs' apartment building, it gave him an idea. He thought the stacks of books in the hallway looked like furniture, so he decided to make *real* furniture out of them. Sachs welded together pieces of metal to make a base for a couch and then used a hot glue gun to attach about 100 telephone books to the frame. One of Sachs' two sofas, which he made in 1995, is permanently booked for viewing at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art.

Periodical Pillars

Scottish artist David Mach likes to make art out of unusual materials. He's also a fan of classical Greek art. Both passions help explain why Mach built five towering Greek columns in the lobby of New York City's Brooklyn Museum of Art in 1989. Using 40 tons of magazines collected from recyclers, Mach and six helpers set up huge cardboard tubes and built the columns around them by carefully placing one magazine on top of another. No glue or staples were used to keep the 30-foot columns from crashing down. Gravity alone did the job.

ADVERTISEMENT

TOSHIBA NSTA EXPLORAVISION AWARDS

Are You 20 Years Ahead of Your Time?

Here's your chance to prove it — and maybe win a $10,000 savings bond!

Toshiba and the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) invite you to take part in ExploraVision, the largest K-12 student science competition in North America. Now in its eighth winning year, ExploraVision has just been updated to be even more advanced. Here's how it works: You and other students who wish to participate form teams of two, three or four to "explore" a technology of your choice and then imagine a unique "vision" of what will be possible with that technology in the year 2020. As part of your entry, your team provides sample sketches of web screens promoting your idea. Then, if you're among the 24 regional winning teams, your school will receive a complimentary laptop computer and software for your use in creating an actual web site. This year, ExploraVision prizes include:

First Prize (4 teams) U. S. Savings Bond of $10,000* for each student
Second Prize (4 teams) U. S. Savings Bond of $5,000* for each student
Regional Prize (24 teams) A digital camera for each student and teacher
Honorable Mention (2000 students) Selected prizes for each student
*Or Canada Savings Bond of comparable issue price.

Make sure your school is as ahead of the times as you are. For details on how you can test your "2020" vision, connect to *www.toshiba.com/tai/exploravision/*; call 1-800-EXPLOR-9 or (703) 243-7100; or write Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards, 1840 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201.

In Touch with Tomorrow
TOSHIBA
www.toshiba.com

The Toshiba/NSTA ExploraVision Awards program is funded by Toshiba Corporation, the Toshiba America Group Companies and the Toshiba America Foundation, and is administered by the National Science Teachers Association.

Are You for Real?

by David Lewman

It's possible that some writer just made you up and that you're stuck in a novel right now. Here are some telltale signs that you're in a tale.

Instead of parents, you have an author.

You've had a series of numbered adventures.

There's an animated movie based on your life.

Your teacher assigns you to write a report on yourself.

There are lots of drawings of you, but no photos.

You live in a little house on the prairie.

You're dog-eared.

When you go to the library, you feel like people are checking you out.

Every summer, you get read all over.

You can always see a number out of the corner of your eye.

Your closet is full of dust jackets.

The last thing you see before you fall asleep is: THE END.

ADVERTISEMENT

1999 PlayStation/Nabisco Cool Bus Sweepstakes
Official Rules

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

1. You must have your parent's permission to play! **To enter** from a touch-tone phone only from 7/1/99 through 10/31/99, call 1-877-99COOLBUS (1-877-992-6652). When calling, you will need to provide the last 5 digits of the UPC # found on the Brand Seal on participating Nabisco packages, and your home phone #, including area code. Calls must originate from within the 50 United States, including Wash. D.C. Computer generated calls not accepted. Limit 2 calls per UPC, per phone #.
No Purchase Necessary—For complete rules, toll-free entry #, prize list, and a qualifying UPC, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to: PlayStation®/Nabisco Request, P.O. Box 3844, Dept. A, St. Cloud, MN 56397-3844, to be received by 10/15/99 (limit 1 request per outer mailing envelope, WA & VT residents omit return postage), or call 1-800-248-6592 between 10/1/99 & 10/31/99 ONLY. Information line will only be open during time period specified.

2. Overall every tenth valid call wins instantly, up to a maximum of 2,000,000 valid calls accepted. Prizes will be awarded via random intercepts of calls during program period based on every tenth valid call. All prizes claimed for the actual number of valid calls received, up to a maximum of 2,000,000, will be awarded. All winners will be notified that they have won during call, & will be notified by mail within 8-10 weeks of winning call. All prizes will be awarded by 12/31/99, except for the Ultimate Prize, which will be scheduled for delivery by 5/31/00. Random intercepts and notification are under supervision of Carlson Draddy & Associates, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final.

3. Prizes & approximate retail values: Ultimate Prize (1)—Appearance at winner's school of the PlayStation Truck, plus one each Grand Prize through Tenth Prize, including both music CD's. Note: The PlayStation vehicle is **not** included in the prize. (PlayStation vehicle delivery of Ultimate Prize **not** available to callers from AK and HI. If Ultimate Prize winner is from either state, winner gets all PlayStation, Sony and Nabisco prizes included in Ultimate Prize by mail, and another caller will be selected at random for full Ultimate Prize.) (ARV: $1,139.66, odds 1:2,000,000). Grand Prize (100)—PlayStation game console, 10 PlayStation video games (determined by SCEA), one Dual Shock™ Analog Controller, two memory cards, one Multi Tap for the PlayStation game console, one year PlayStation Underground Magazine subscription and one $25.00 PlayStation Threadz catalog gift certificate. (ARV: $715.00, odds 1:20,000). 1st Prize (300)—One PlayStation game console and one PlayStation video game (either Spyro the Dragon™, Crash Bandicoot: WARPED™ or Gran Turismo™, determined by SCEA and Sponsor). (ARV: $170.00, odds 1:6,667). 2nd Prize (100)—Psyc™ Discman® portable CD player. (ARV: $110.00, odds 1:20,000). 3rd Prize (1,000)—One PlayStation video game (either Spyro the Dragon, Crash Bandicoot: WARPED or Gran Turismo, determined by SCEA). (ARV: $40.00, odds 1:2,000). 4th Prize (1,000)—One Dual Shock™ Analog Controller. (ARV: $30.00, odds 1:2,000). 5th Prize (5,000)—Sony Music artist CD (either Tatyana Ali or B*Witched, determined by Sponsor). (ARV: $16.98, odds 1:400). 6th Prize (2,500)—PlayStation branded hat (ARV: $15.00, odds 1:800). 7th Prize (10,000)—One memory card for the PlayStation game console. (ARV: $15.00, odds 1:200). 8th Prize (10,000)—PlayStation branded dog tag. (ARV: $5.00, odds 1:200). 9th Prize (120,000)—PlayStation Collectable Hint Line card (ARV: $5.00, odds 1:17). 10th Prize (50,000)—Free coupon for Nabisco Cookie or Cracker single serve size. (ARV: $0.70, odds 1:40). Total # of prizes: 200,001; total ARV: $1,162,039.66; total odds of winning 1:10.

4. Open to legal residents of the 50 United States and D.C. Employees of Sony Computer Entertainment America, Sony Music Corp., Sony Electronics, Nabisco, Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries, agencies, suppliers, phone providers, retailers, immediate families of each & persons living in household of each are not eligible. Void where prohibited or restricted. Limit 1 Ultimate or Grand Prize per household, address or family. If potential Ultimate Prize Winner is under the age of 21, parent or legal guardian of potential Ultimate Prize Winner is required to execute an Affidavit of Eligibility & Publicity/Liability Release within 14 days of attempted notification. Non-compliance may result in disqualification & selection of alternate winner. Entry & acceptance of prize grants sponsor right to use winner's name, city, & state of residence and/or likeness for advertising/publicity, without notice or additional compensation, except where prohibited by law. Prizes may be awarded in name of parent/legal guardian. Taxes are winner's responsibility. No transfer or substitution of prizes, except that sponsor reserves right to substitute prizes of equal or greater value. By participating, entrants agree to abide by Official Rules & judges' decisions. Sponsor & its agencies not responsible for any losses due to lost, late, postage-due, or misdirected mail or entries, incomplete, lost, inaudible or late information provided via phone or telephone system or electronic equipment failure or data loss. By accepting prize, winners release Sponsor and Promotion Agency, their parents, subsidiaries, affiliates, suppliers, and agents from any and all liability for any loss, harm, damages, cost or expense, including without limitation property damages, personal injury and/or death, arising out of participation in this Sweepstakes or the acceptance, use or misuse of the prize.

5. For list of Ultimate, Grand and First Prize winners, available after 2/1/00, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: PlayStation/ Nabisco Winners, P.O. Box 3631, Dept. F, St. Cloud, MN 56397-3631, to be received by 4/1/00

Sponsor: Nabisco, Inc.
Promotion Agency: Carlson Draddy & Associates

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School's never gonna be the same.

Win the Ultimate Prize and watch your friends go wild when the PlayStation Truck shows up at your school for a day of gaming fun! Plus, take home every other prize – your very own PlayStation game console, video games, accessories and more.

ONE IN TEN WINS!

IN THE NABISCO PLAYSTATION SWEEPSTAKES.

See Sweepstakes rules on opposite page. No purchase necessary.

200,001 Prizes

Imagine a 60-ton arcade on wheels crammed with new and yet-to-be-released PlayStation video games coming to your school for the day. It's the ultimate "Thrills on Wheels" prize. Plus there are 200,000 other prizes including PlayStation video games, Sony Electronics, Sony Music, and cool Nabisco stuff.

www.nabiscokids.com

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Scavenger Hunt™

SCAVENGE THROUGH THREE GAMES IN ONE!

Collect treats on Reptar's candy island

Explore an ancient Aztec temple

Search a sunken pirate ship for hidden treasure

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$5 Rebate by mail with purchase of Rugrats Scavenger Hunt video game and Rugrats, Runaway Reptar videocassette from Nickelodeon and Paramount!

See inside videocassette for details on rebate offer and for official rebate certificate. Some restrictions apply. Offer valid in the USA and Canada, excluding Quebec. Offer expires 5/31/00.

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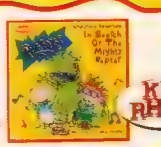
Look for Rugrats in Search of the Mighty Reptar on CD and Cassette!



KID RHINO

EVERYONE E
CONTENT RATED BY ESRB

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Secrets for Sale

Diaries make for juicy reading, especially when they're not yours. The next time you read a good one, try sending it in to a publisher. You might get back a letter like this. (Circle one of the phrases for each group.)

CALDECOTT & SONS PRESS
144 PULITZER PATH
NEWBERY, MASSACHUSETTS

Dear _____ (your name here):

Thank you for submitting *My* (Sister's / Brother's / Friend's) *Diary* for publication. This is the first time we've ever received a manuscript with a lock on it! After much (consideration, / antacid, / sleep,) we have decided to publish the book. Today's American reader urgently wants to know what really goes on inside a young person's (mind, / life, / bathroom,) and this book will tell them.

I particularly liked the part where the author described (his / her) crush on (a classmate. / a teacher. / Pikachu.) Also (fascinating / sleep-inducing / worth skimming) was the brief chapter called "My Sibling the Snoop." My absolute favorite sections were the spin-the-bottle scene in the neighbors' basement and the description of the thousands of hours a week spent (at the mall. / popping zits. / in detention.) The author's ability to continuously (doodle / chew gum in class / avoid gym class) was very disturbing.

Naturally, we'd have to cut (a few words here and there. / the entire book. / the cheese.) And, of course, we would like you to appear (on *Oprah*. / in court. / on the cover.)

I am, however, particularly curious as to how you came across the *Diary*. The lock on the book, I noticed, did seem mangled. Naturally, if the author has not agreed to publish this work, we (cannot go forward. / will go ahead and do it anyway. / must have you hauled in for questioning.) But if, as stated on page 157, (he / she) does indeed go ahead with plans to "run away to (Hollywood / the Zoltar Galaxy / somewhere across the street) and never come back," this will not be an issue.

Let's do (lunch / push-ups / a little dance) soon.

Yours,
I.M.A. Bookbinder
I.M.A. Bookbinder

ADVERTISEMENT

Aunt Jemima® Presents Great Dates in Waffle History!

Use these facts to impress your friends, your teachers, and your parents (or at least make them hungry for crispy Aunt Jemima® Waffles!)

2 B.C. Waffle batter was invented in China. (Actually, it was more like pancake batter because the waffle iron hadn't been invented yet!)

1869 Cornelius Swarthout patents the first waffle iron in the U.S. Whew! Waffles are finally here!

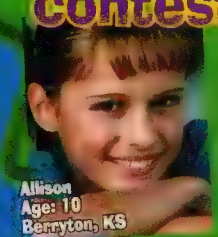
Meet zee new Breakfast Heads

1919 The first pop-up toaster is invented. But nobody's made a waffle that fits in it yet!

1968 Aunt Jemima® starts making frozen waffles. Now, kids can enjoy one of their favorite breakfast foods every day, right out of the toaster!

1999 Kids asked Aunt Jemima® to make waffles that are CRISPY, TASTY, ROUND and SMELL GOOD. So we did. Try 'em and see for yourself.

and the Aunt Jemima® contest winners!



Thanks, Allison and Kaysie, for helping us name these new Breakfast Heads!

Try New ROUND Aunt Jemima® Waffles and be a part of waffle history.

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NOW READ THIS!

Autumn Miller scoured books, magazines, and newspapers to test your knowledge of books, magazines, and newspapers.

Answers on page 94.

1. In June 1999, a Florida woman was arrested and spent a night in jail for what book-related crime?

a. She was caught reading under the covers with a flashlight past her bedtime.
b. She failed to return *Little House on the Prairie* and other children's books to the library.
c. She gave away the ending to a mystery novel.

2. Which of the following is *not* the title of a real, current magazine?

a. *World Fence News*
b. *Musky Hunter* magazine
c. *Sheep! Magazine*
d. All are real.

3. The world's smallest published book, a 12-page edition of the first verse of "Old King Cole," is about the size of:

a. an Elvis postage stamp (one inch square).
b. a Chiclet (one centimeter square).
c. the dot on this letter ***i*** (one millimeter square).

4. The world's first newspaper, published by Julius Caesar in Rome around 59 BC, was called *Acta Diurna*, which in English means:

a. *You Better Act Right.*
b. *The Toga Times.*
c. *Daily Doings.*

CONTINUED ➤ ➤ ➤

5. The first children's magazine, published in 1789, had stories about geography, manners, and poetry. It was called:
- **a.** *Ye Olde Nyckelodeonne.*
- **b.** *Children's Magazine: Calculated for the Use of Families and Schools.*
- **c.** *Poor Ranger Rick's Almanack.*

6. The best-selling children's book of all time is:
- **a.** *Pat the Bunny.*
- **b.** *Bunnicula: A Rabbit-Tale of Mystery.*
- **c.** *The Tale of Peter Rabbit.*

7. When the Harvard College Library burned down in 1764, a volume of the *Complete History of England* escaped destruction because it was checked out at the time. However, that didn't help students who wanted to read the book because:
- **a.** it wasn't returned until 1997, 233 years later.
- **b.** it was printed in invisible ink.
- **c.** little Georgie Washington had scribbled all over it.

8. The first book of crosswords, published in 1924, came with this extra bonus:
- **a.** a sharpened pencil on a string.
- **b.** aspirin.
- **c.** a person who could do them.

9. The morgue is a room where a newspaper stores:
- **a.** cold drinks and sandwiches.
- **b.** clippings of its old stories.
- **c.** editors who keel over while trying to meet their deadlines.

10. Old books get their musty smell from:
- **a.** the letters *B* and *O*.
- **b.** mildew, bacteria, and particle decay.
- **c.** red cardboard bookmarks shaped like trees and scented with "old book" smell.

11. In 1997, almost 68 percent of newspapers in the United States were recycled. These papers were turned into:
- **a.** more newspapers.
- **b.** egg cartons.
- **c.** farm-animal bedding.
- **d.** all of the above.

12. The gutter of a magazine is:
- **a.** the space where the inner margins of the page meet.
- **b.** an editor who rips the guts out of a story to make it shorter.
- **c.** the metal edge that collects leaves and rainwater during outdoor reading.

Real

STRANGER THAN FICTION: READABLE FACTS

● The average person can read 150 to 400 words a minute, but Howard Berg, the world's fastest reader, can speed through 25,000 words (80 pages) in a minute.

● The most expensive book in the world is a first edition of Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* printed more than 500 years ago. It was sold last year for $7.5 million by the descendants of a woman who had bought the book for $10 in 1776.

● There is no real insect called a bookworm, but there are 160 different kinds of beetle larvae that eat books (including the paper and the leather bindings).

● Abdul Kassem Ismael, a leader in 10th century Persia, always traveled with his collection of books—all 117,000 of them. He packed them on 400 camels that were trained to walk with the books in alphabetical order so that Ismael's librarians could quickly find any volume he wanted.

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McWorld Times

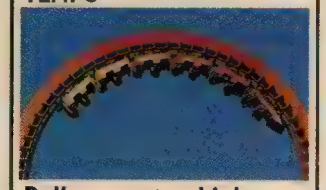
"Hey, it could happen"

McWorld City Late Edition

Tuesday, September 14, 2000

IN TODAY'S NEWS

TEMPO



Roller coaster highway completed

This new 200-mile-an-hour ride opens for use today. The highway coaster will run between NY and LA, stopping at a McDonald's® Restaurant in Cleveland for snacks. pg. 4

BUSINESS

11-yr.-old's Web page sells for $57 million

Lea Ladera's Web page, "My Hamsters and What They Do All Day", was purchased yesterday by a large Internet company. pg. 8

FOOD & DRINK

Big Mac® officially named a food group

The MWFCA (McWorld Food & Chow Administration) announced that a Big Mac Sandwich contains all the required food group components: yummy-ness, juicy-ness, messy-ness and special sauce. pg. 11

Jealous, McFlurry™ Dessert applies for food group status

McFlurry Desserts all over McWorld are petitioning the MWFCA to be named a food group, claiming they too are yummy, can be messy and would work with special sauce. pg. 12

Reader's Guide

TV	2	Celebrities	19
Movies	30	Nintendo	8
Sports	5	Who Likes Who	24
Clothes	5		

9-yr.-old elected school principal

By Christine Oliver
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Yuma, UT—Mary Massey, a fourth grader at George Adkins Elementary, has been elected principal of the entire school by the student body. She had only been running for the office of Student Council Treasurer, but received enough votes to be elected principal of the whole school. Her first official act as principal will be to organize daily field trips to a McDonald's in France. Her second act will be to get rid of the current principal, who is, according to unnamed sources, "not very cool."

"I just don't understand it, but I guess she won fair and square," said ousted principal Mark Burgess. "I didn't know I could be kicked out of office and replaced by a student," Burgess remarked. Ms. Massey replied, "Well guess what, you can."

see Replaced, pg. 16

"I built my campaign platform on 7-hour recess, video game exams and shopping class. And I fully intend to see these things through."
-New principal Massey

class photo

McNuggets® pilot shuttle into space

Cape Canaveral, FL– At approximately 11:19 a.m. yesterday, a team of four McNuggets achieved liftoff from the Space Center. The McNuggets will conduct a three-day exploration of the cosmos in search of new sauces. From space, Lt. Cmdr. McNugget proudly commented, "This is ... one small step for man ... one way freaky three-day vacation for us."

see AstroNuggets, pg. 4

Lt. Cmdr. McNugget training for reentry splashdown into BBQ sauce.

Rough-housing made a professional sport

By Lisa Bennett
SENIOR EDITOR

Gstaad, Switzerland– After nearly eight seconds of debate, the McWorld Athletic Association decided to declare rough-housing a professional sport and create a 28-team league to begin play next year. Rough-housing is an ancient sport involving noogies, poking, pushing, fake wrestling-type moves, knuckle-thumping and general flailing and flopping about between two friends or siblings, usually conducted in a living room or bedroom.

Playoff berths and Quarter Pounder with Cheese® Sandwiches will be awarded according to how much rough-housing the two-man teams can complete before one of their moms yells, "You stop that rough-housing this instant!"

see Sports, pg. 5

Friends Eric Routenberg and Scott English practice for the season opener.

Prison for older brothers finally opens

By Sara LaPorte
TIMES STAFF WRITER

Virginia Beach, VA–Bergold Penitentiary, the first detention center for pesky, meddlesome or annoying older brothers, will open its doors to inmates today. The facility–located on a remote and swampy island–is only accessible by rowboat and can house up to 500 not-very-nice elder siblings, who will spend their days taking out the garbage, mowing the lawn for no money and listening to audio tapes about the history of the Lousiana Purchase.

"It's about time," said Brandt Carlson, a 12-year-old from Chicago. "My brother Trent's been making fun of my ears for years, and I can't wait to put that brace-face in Bergold."

See Ribbon-cutting ceremony, pg. 4

Sample Offenses* & Sentencing

- **wet willies**, 3-yr. minimum
- **wedgies**, 2-yr. minimum
- **atomic wedgies**, 6-yr. maximum
- **stealing French Fries**, 15 to life
- **changing TV channel**, 3-yr. min.
- **burping in face**, 5 yrs.
- **sucking up to Mom**, 2-yr. minimum

*first offenses only

Source: Amendment to McWorld Constitution

Bergold Penitentiary, future home of jerky older siblings.

TOMORROW'S NEWS

Sammy Sosa

Adopt-A-Sports-Star Program planned

Grant Hill

A Novel Mess

A book illustrator accidentally combined two books on each of the covers he was painting. Now the publishers are excited because with the combined book ideas, they can sell cute kiddie characters to teenagers. Can you tell which pairs of books from the list on the next page are illustrated on these eight covers? Some titles are the names of series, such as Goosebumps. (Hint: Each book is used only once.) ***Answers on page 94.***

by Robert Leighton

1 **A combination of**

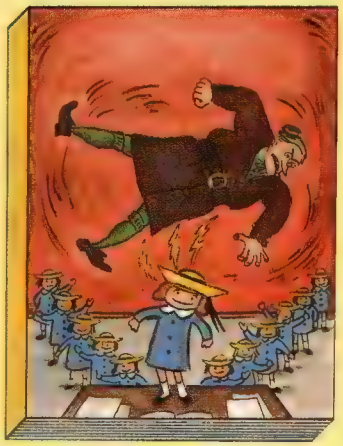
_____

and _____

2 **A combination of**

_____

and _____



❸ **A combination of**

_____

and _____

❹ **A combination of**

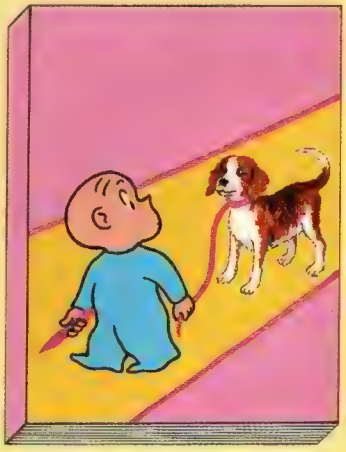
_____

and _____

❺ **A combination of**

_____

and _____



❻ **A combination of**

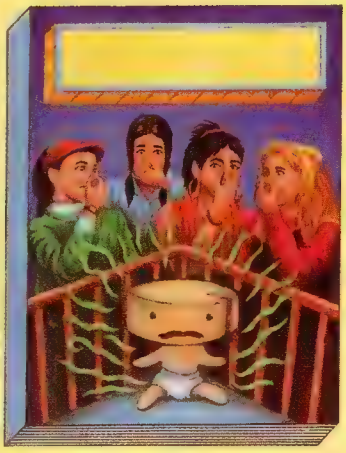
_____

and _____

❼ **A combination of**

_____

and _____



❽ **A combination of**

_____

and _____

THE BOOKS

- Animorphs
- The Baby-Sitters Club
- *Charlotte's Web*
- *Curious George*
- Goosebumps
- *Harold and the Purple Crayon*
- *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*
- *Madeline*
- The Magic School Bus
- *Matilda*
- *The Polar Express*
- *Shiloh*
- *The Stinky Cheese Man*
- *Stuart Little*
- *Where the Wild Things Are*
- *Winnie-the-Pooh*

What a spine-tingling puzzle!

Lots of peanut butter cups were
destroyed in the making of this ad.
Chips
Deluxe
with
Peanut Butter
CUPS
Cookies with Big Soft Chips,
Milk Chocolate Chunks and
Bits of Peanut Butter Cups
Chips Deluxe

Cutout Prank: JoKÉMoN CARDS

Carefully tear out these six prank cards. Slip them into your favorite trading-card game deck and play them. by Andrew Brisman

Basic Jokémon

Rare-izard — $10,000 IPO

Red Hot Jokémon. Length: As long as you can stretch a dollar. Weight: Worth it in gold.

Special Jokémon Power: Breaks the Bank
This card is so rare, it almost doesn't exist. It will cost you everything that you and your parents own.

Heart Attack Tell everyone how much this card cost. Call an ambulance after they all pass out. — $50-

Show Me the Money Any person who dares to even look at this card must pay $100. — $100-

weakened by | repels | getaway

It's so valuable, players must wear gloves when touching it—otherwise, greasy fingerprints may ruin the card's value. Known to cause bankruptcy.

Basic Jokémon

Zelda — 1K9

Crafty Canine/Reporter Jokémon. Height: 17 inches. Weight: 19 pounds.

Special Jokémon Power: Biting Wit Zelda uses wit points to give defending Jokémon a licking. When she's funny, defenders are left Speechless and Paralyzed.

Ruff Stuff Flip a coin. If heads, Zelda chews out defending Jokémon. If tails, Zelda rolls over and begs the defender to rub her tummy. — 1=7

weakened by | repels | getaway

Can be found talking to herself in the margins of a certain magazine.

Basic Jokémon

Cow — 100% COW

Cow Jokémon. Length: Cow length. Weight: Cow weight.

Special Jokémon Power: Acts Like a Cow
Gives milk. Wears a bell. Often called Elsie

Roadside Distraction Opponent must say "Moo" as defending Jokémon cards pass by Cow. — 0

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"What am I doing in this game? I'm not a monster—I'm a cow. Just let me chew my cud."

Stage 1 — Evolves from Zelda — Put Zeldasaur on the Basic Jokémon

Zeldasaur — 3,000,000 BC

Confused Canine Jokémon. Length and Weight: Ever-changing. She just keeps growing and growing and growling.

Special Jokémon Power: Unleashed Cannot be walked or taught to do tricks. Scares defending Jokémon and readers of kids' magazines. Eats pages on which she appears.

House Broken Make this attack and your house is sure to be broken. — 911

weakened by | repels | getaway

A bizarre combination of reptile and canine—or is this just what happens when Zelda misses her grooming appointment?

Basic Jokémon

HokeyPokeyBird — 11-EEE

Goofy Dance Jokémon. Length and Weight: Unknown (won't stop dancing long enough to be measured).

Puts right foot in — 5

Puts right foot out — 5-

Shakes it all about — 5

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That's what it's all about.

Stage 2 — Evolves from Zeldasaur — Put Zilla on the Stage 1 card

Zilla — 8 NYC

Can't-fit-in-your-pocket Jokémon. Length and Weight: Unknown—ate scale at doctor's office.

Special Jokémon Power: Unjolly Green Giant
Play this card to crush all other Jokémon. Then run in terror as card destroys your city.

I'm Number One Explains to all Jokémon how she will always be the queen of all monsters. Then scorches them with atomic breath. — 27,856,942

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Can only be destroyed by forcing her to watch a marathon of Barney & Friends.

Cutout Prank:

JOKÉMON CARDS

Carefully tear out these six prank cards. Slip them into your favorite trading-card game deck and play them. by Andrew Brisman

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The Wild Thornberrys created by Klasky Csupo Inc.

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BAK2SKOOL '99

Are you worried about school interrupting your video-game playing? Relax. David Lawman just turned a day at school into a video game!

Your Mission: Find the Scroll of Honor and scribble your name on it before your grades drop into the Bottomless Pit!

LEVEL ONE: Land of the Lockers

Slowly you creep down a long, dark hallway, searching for your locker—the one with the dents. Don't go too fast, or you'll slip on the Newly Waxed Floor of Embarrassment. Suddenly, a group of bullies leaps out from behind the Case of Dusty Trophies!

Do *not* duck into the bathroom. Instead, squirt them with deadly brown water from the Fountain of Eternal Waiting in Line. Then find the entrance to Classworld, pronto!

Remember Stash your backpack in your locker. Later it will become too heavy to carry.

Bonus Tip Dig a bunch of number 2 pencils out of your backpack before you stash it. You'll need 'em in Classworld.

LEVEL TWO: Classworld

As you enter Classworld, stop and feed a couple of pencils to the Sharpener of Grinding and Snapping (otherwise it might bite you). As you gather points, you'll gain special skills: Smooth Walking (useful for going up to the chalkboard), Chair Leaning (but don't overdo it or you'll fall into the Den of Detention!), and best of all, Clock Control. When the Test of Multiple Tortures drops, start throwing out answers—you have to solve all the puzzles and riddles before you run out of brain power. At the end of this level, you'll go one-on-one in a spelling battle with the big boss, Screecher the Teacher!

Remember You lose points every time another student makes you laugh out loud.

Bonus Tip The capital of South Dakota is Pierre.

LEVEL THREE: Planet Playground

You've slipped through the scary corridors and solved the tricky puzzles, but now it's time to run! You have to beat the other runners in the Races of Relay. While you're sprinting, you may be attacked by Planet Playground's monsters—Side-Achia, Mulch Mouth, and Flatfoot! Look out for Flying Missiles from the Diamond of Softball, and watch your step on the Court of Cracked Pavement.

Remember The Rules of Relay say you have to run *outside* the orange cones.

Bonus Tip Once you've beaten this level's boss, the Rulemaker, steal his key to the Realm of the Teachers.

LEVEL FOUR: The Realm of the Teachers

To reach the Scroll of Honor, you have to first build up your energy level. Sneak into the Realm of the Teachers, a hideous lounge that is totally off-limits! To avoid the Teacher Creatures, you'll need to use all your combo moves, including the Super-Low Belly Crawl. Duck behind the beat-up green sofa. Steal a bite of the Cake of Coffee, but don't drink any of the coffee itself—it's poison! The location of the Scroll is written somewhere in the Stack of Old Papers, but before you can read it, one of the Teacher Creatures will escort you to the Principal's Lair. Luckily, that's exactly where the scroll is.

Remember Don't waste time reading the bulletins tacked to the wall—they're really boring.

Bonus Tip Take plenty of sugar packets. They won't give you any special powers, but it's fun to eat sugar.

LEVEL FIVE: The Principal's Lair

You begin your ordeal with the Very Long Wait in the Wooden Chair. There are tons of ways to lose points in here: by squirming, by touching stuff on the desk, by doodling—and don't even think about singing. To distract the Purple Principal, grab the P.A. microphone and announce a fire drill. While the principal is gone, you have exactly two minutes to search the drawers for the Scroll of Honor.

Remember Scribble your name on the scroll with the Pen of Permanent Ink, so no one can erase it.

Bonus Tip If you gather 20 million points, you get a Continue. But, um, why would you want to? ❑

Think summer's about to end? Think again. On Saturdays, it never does.

Disney's Mickey Mouse Works

Get ready for all new episodes of Doug, Pepper Ann, Recess and Mickey MouseWorks. And look out for all kinds of stuff you've never seen before. Remember, we've got Sabrina joining the gang... surprises are part of her job.

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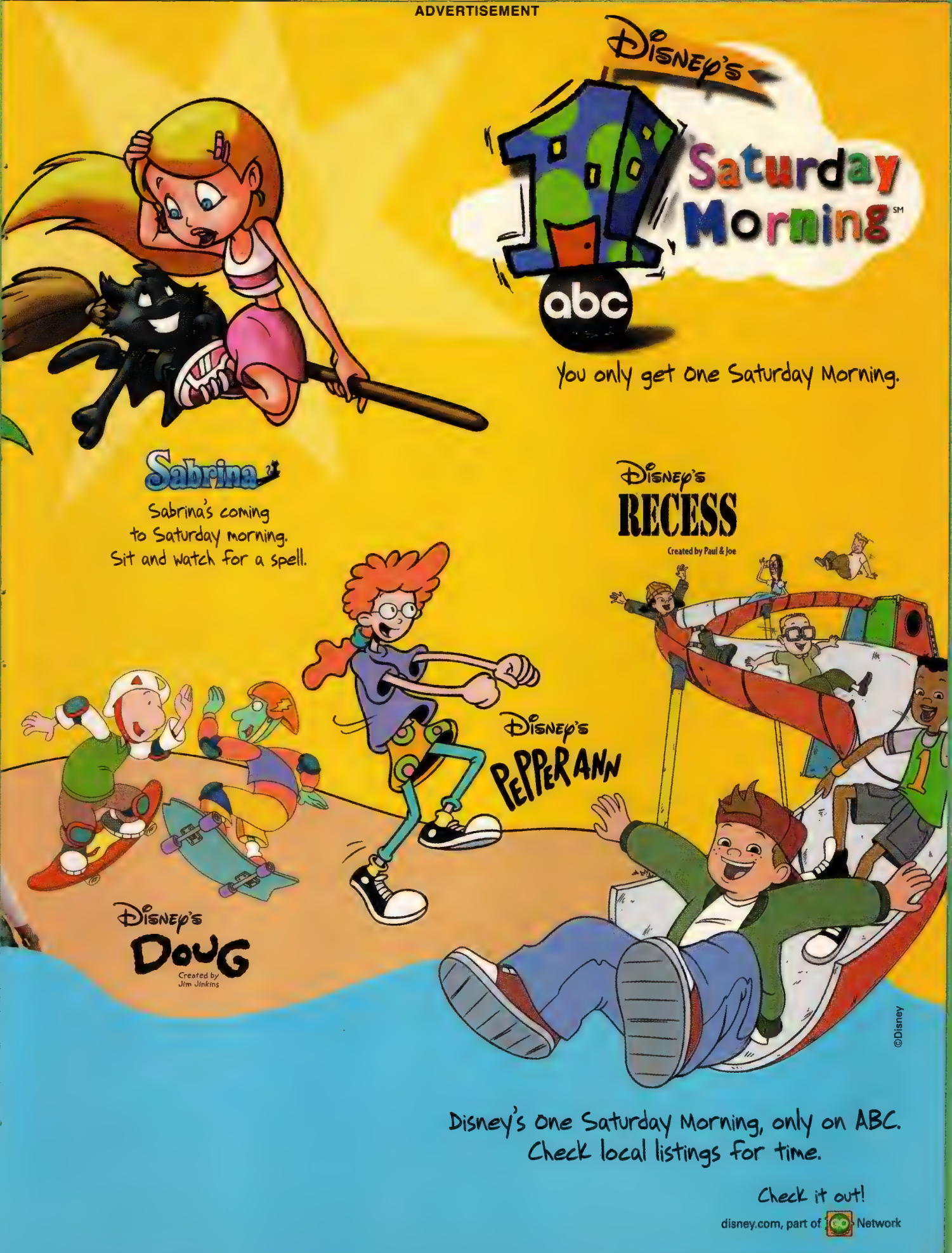

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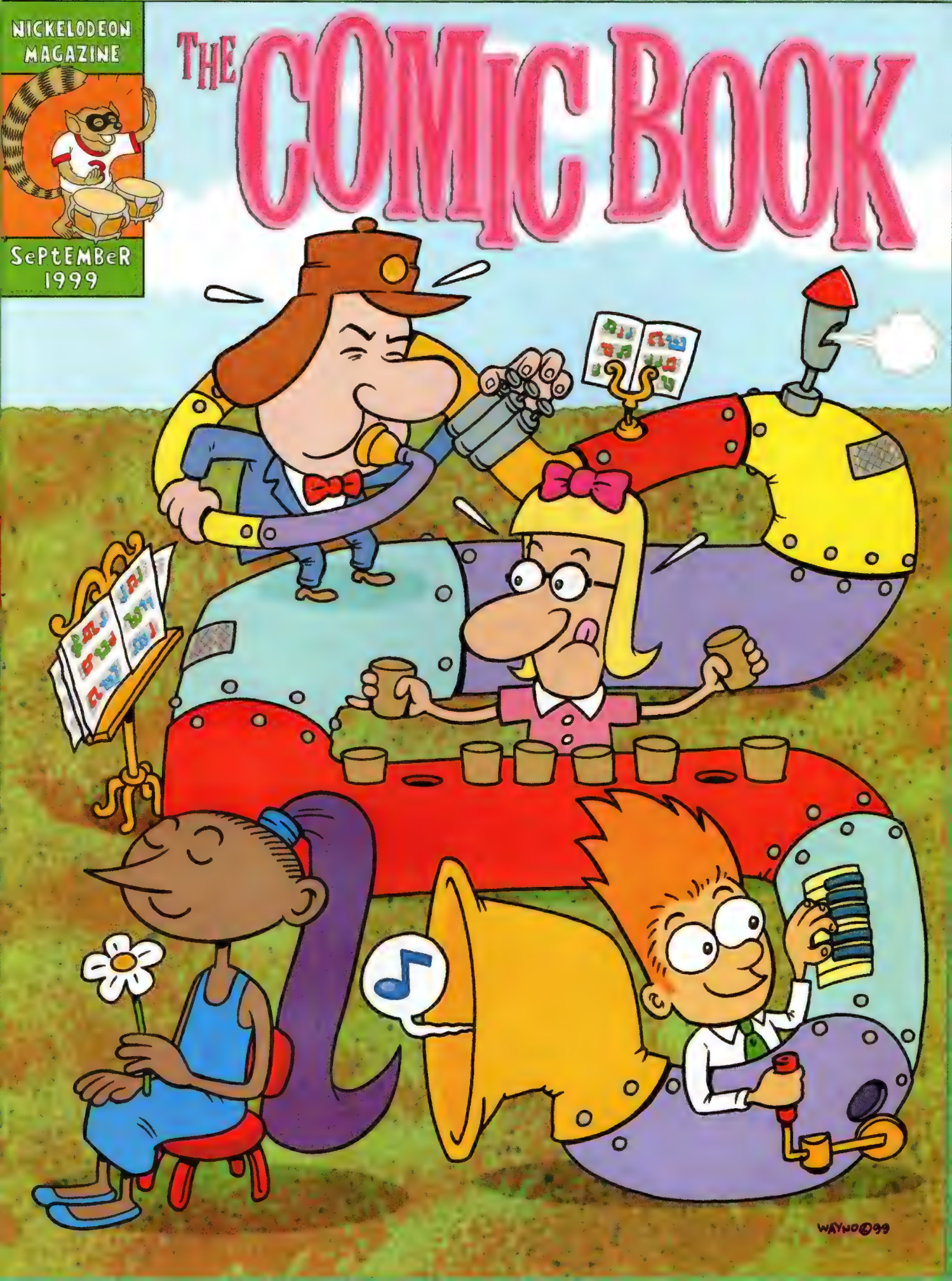
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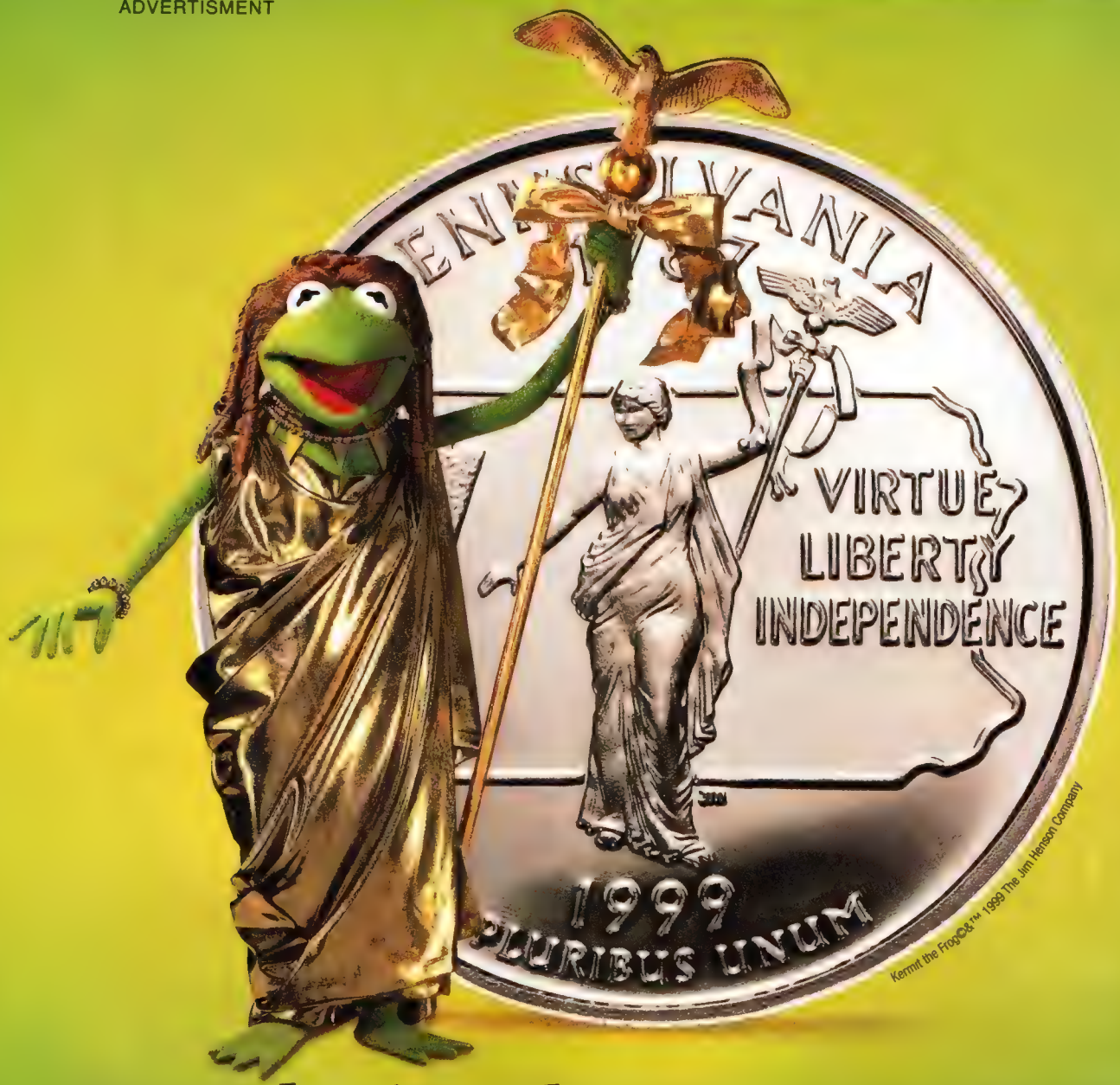

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Kermit the Frog here – and no, I'm not all dressed up for a toga party. I'm dressed as Pennsylvania's Commonwealth statue to bring you some really big news. Every state in the Nation is going to be represented by its own quarter! The United States Mint is issuing a new quarter about every ten weeks in the order that the states joined the Union. That means five per year. Every quarter will have a different design on its back that is as beautiful as it is educational. I'm really excited about this- that's why I'm the Mint's spokesfrog!

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SCENE BUT NOT HEARD

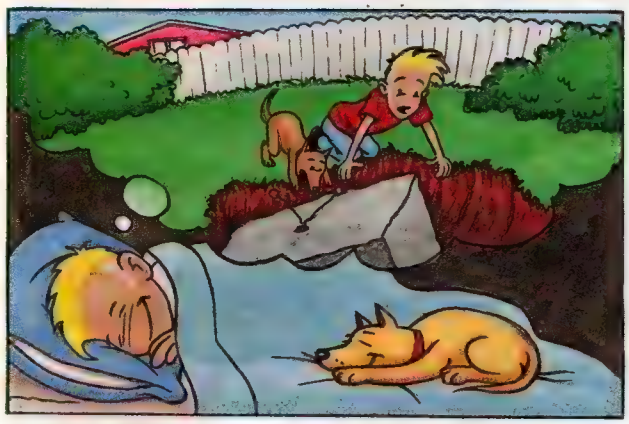
BY SAM HENDERSON

GOOD MORNING, MATILDA! LOVELY DAY, OPHELIA!
HELLO, TERWILLIGER.
Welcome to ITCHY ACRES
REMOVE BRAIN BEFORE ENTERING
Wayno©98
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S WEARING THAT HAT ON SUCH A WARM, SUNNY DAY!
HE WEARS IT EVERY DAY. I WONDER WHY....
MAYBE TERWILLIGER HAS CAULIFLOWER EARS!
COULD BE...
INSTEAD OF CAULIFLOWER, WHAT IF THEY'RE EARS OF CORN?
THAT'S NOT FUNNY!
FOR ALL WE KNOW, HE COULD BE AN ALIEN INVADER!

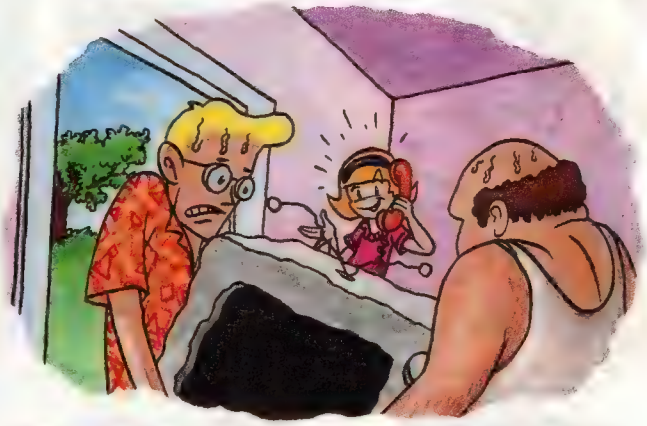
WE HAVE TO FIND OUT!
CALM DOWN, MATILDA! WHEN HE COMES BY TOMORROW, WE'LL JUST UNHAT HIM.
OOH! GOOD IDEA!
IT IS A GOOD IDEA, ISN'T IT?
NEXT MORN-ING...
COME CLOSER, TERWILLIGER. I HAVE A SECRET TO TELL YOU.
OKAY.
GOT IT!
HEY!
I'M NOT GOING TO ASK WHAT'S IN YOUR PENCIL CASE....
PENCIL CASE? THAT'S MY LUNCH BOX!
ARF!
END

THE ANCIENT TELEVISION

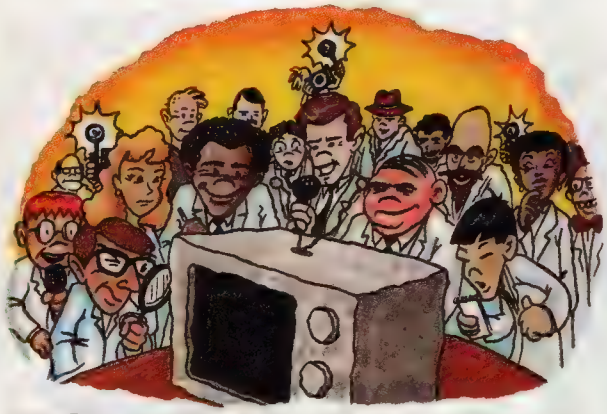
by Corey Barba



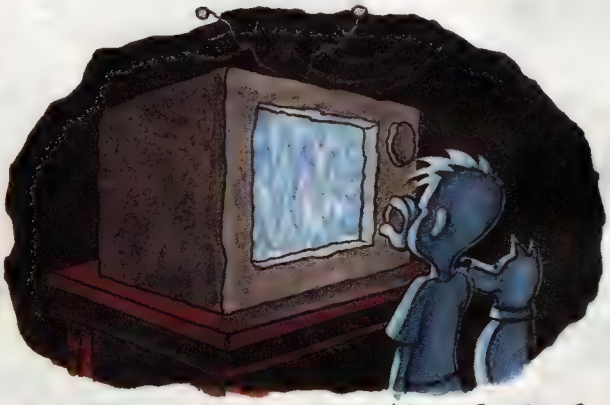
LAST NIGHT, I DREAMED OF AN ANCIENT TELEVISION SET. I FOUND IT WHILE I WAS DIGGING IN OUR BACKYARD FOR DINOSAUR BONES.



WHILE DAD AND OUR NEIGHBOR MR. HALIFAX CARRIED IT INSIDE, MOM CALLED THE TV NEWS TO TELL THEM WHAT I FOUND.

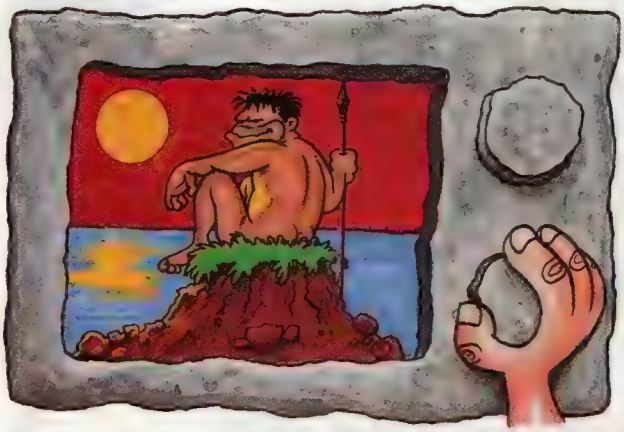


SCIENTISTS AND REPORTERS CAME FROM ALL AROUND TO SEE THE ANCIENT TV. THEY SAID IT WAS, LIKE, 3 ZILLION YEARS OLD, MAKING IT THE MOST IMPORTANT DISCOVERY EVER.



THE SET ITSELF WAS ROCK AND DIDN'T USE ELECTRICITY. YOU TURNED ONE OF THE STONE KNOBS, AND IT PULLED ENERGY FROM THE SKY AND PLAYED ALL OF THE ANCIENT SHOWS IT REMEMBERED.

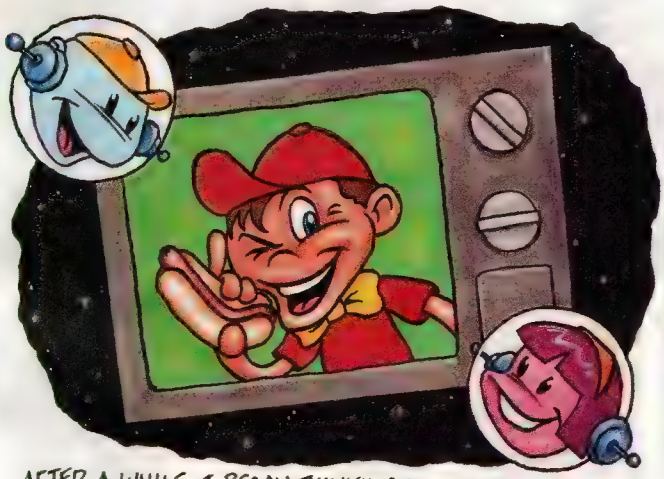
THE SHOWS WERE AMAZING! MY FAVORITES WERE THE CARTOONS, BUT THERE WERE ALSO A LOT OF PROGRAMS THAT SHOWED WHAT PREHISTORIC PEOPLE ATE AND WORE.



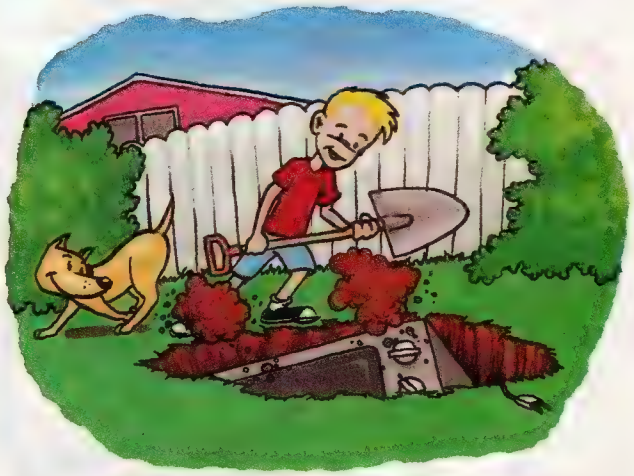
SOMETIMES THEY DIDN'T WEAR ANYTHING AT ALL, AND MY MOM WOULD MAKE ME TURN IT OFF.

NEWSPAPERS EVERYWHERE TOLD MY STORY. BEFORE LONG, MUSEUMS AND COLLECTORS WANTED TO BUY THE SET FOR LOTS OF MONEY, BUT I WOULDN'T SELL THE TV. I LIKED WATCHING IT.

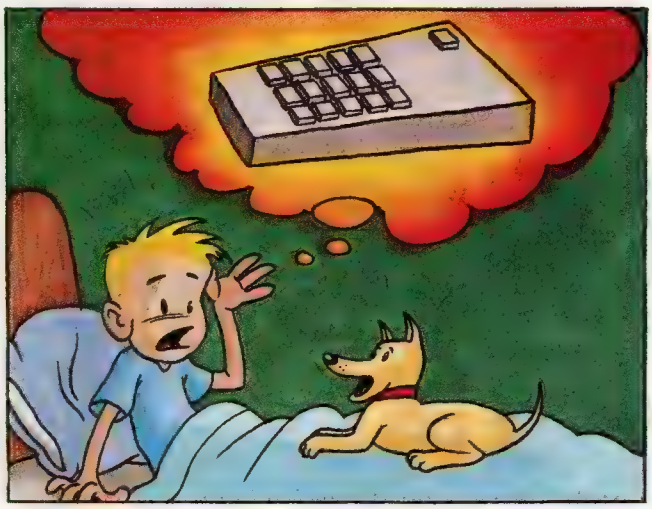
ONE NIGHT WHEN WE WERE OUT, SOMEONE TRIED TO STEAL THE ANCIENT TV. LUCKILY, IT WAS TOO HEAVY TO CARRY.



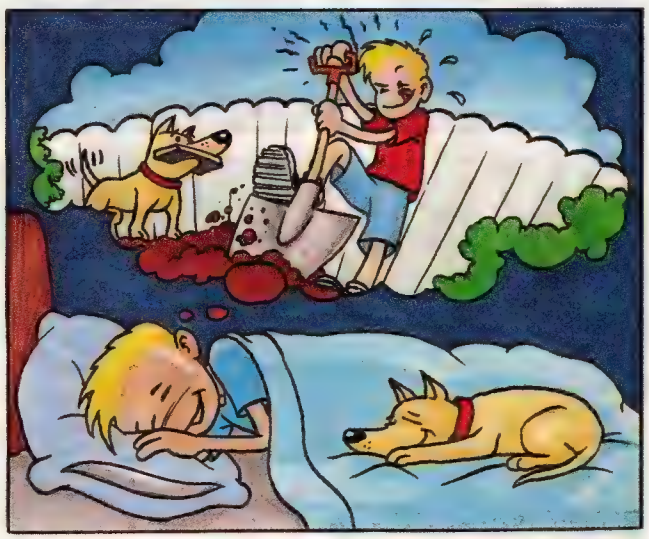
AFTER A WHILE, I BEGAN THINKING:
WOULDN'T KIDS IN THE FUTURE LIKE AN ANCIENT TV OF THEIR OWN? THEN THEY COULD WATCH **OUR** SHOWS AND SEE WHAT **WE** ATE AND WORE!



I THOUGHT IT WAS A GREAT IDEA. SO I CARRIED OUR MODERN TV OUT INTO THE BACKYARD AND BURIED IT DEEP IN THE GROUND.



WHEN I WOKE UP FROM THE DREAM, I REALIZED THAT I HAD FORGOTTEN TO BURY THE REMOTE CONTROL.



SO BACK TO SLEEP I WENT!

END

The SECRET THREE
★ BETTY ★
MIND READER/PIE EATER
★ BUCK ★
HYPNOTIZER/LIVER DESPISER
★ BINGO ★
LUNCHROOM LEMUR/BROCCOLI STOMMER
The SECRET FILE
FOOD FIGHT Buck and Betty and their lemur friend, Bingo, lead double lives as members of the superhero/rock-and-roll band the Secret Three. In their civilian identities, they enjoy eating in the school lunchroom every day. They like the food, but they love the stimulating conversation they get when they sit with the Junior Egghead Future Genius Club. But one day...
MORE!
HMMM, I WONDER WHAT THESE GUYS ARE UP TO?
MIND READING!
IT'S SECRET TIME!
THE SECRET SIGNAL
PARENTAL THE LEMUR
LUNCHROOM
BRING FOOD FIGHT GEAR!
GOOD WORK, BINGO!
FOOD FIGHT!

HUH?
WHAT?
YOU MUST NOT KNOW WHO I AM!
AREN'T YOU MR. POTATO HEAD?
HYPNOTISM!
SPLAT!
FLOUR
FOOD FIGHT! FOOD FIGHT! WATCH IT FLY!
I JUST GOT A MEATBALL IN THE EYE!
YOU CAN BLITZ US WITH GRITS OR FILLET OF SOLE,
BUT YOU CAN'T STOP SECRET THREE ROCK AND ROLL!
THAT TAKES THE CAKE!

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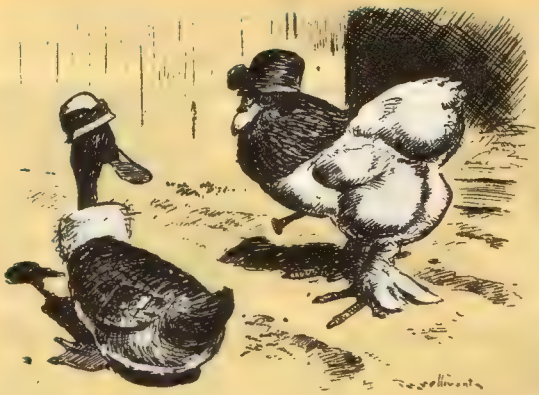
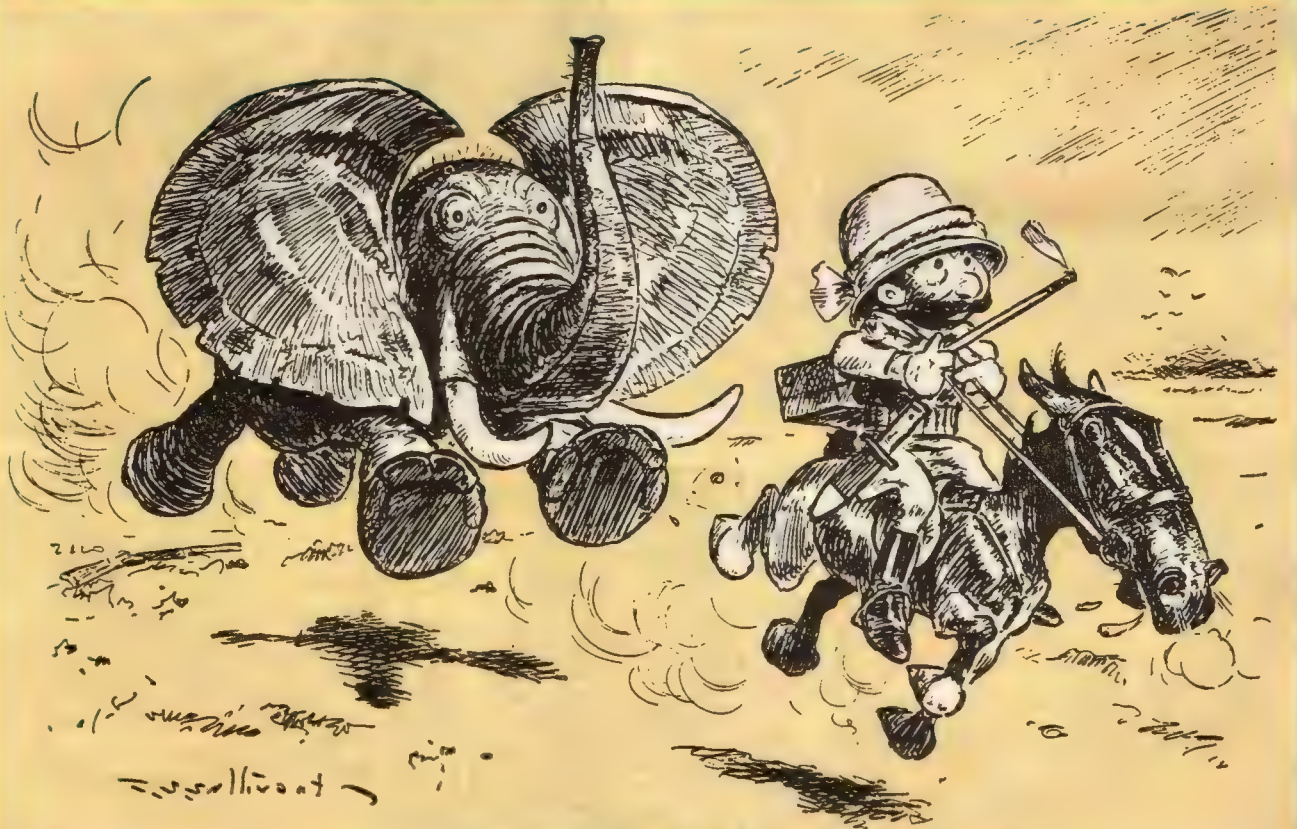
CLASSIC COMIC

*The comics on this page are by **T.S. Sullivant,** whose cartoons appeared in American magazines from the 1880s to the 1920s. Sullivant was a perfectionist who would scrape out the ink lines of his drawings and redraw them over and over until he got them right. "He should have been a sculptor," a friend of Sullivant once commented, "and the way he chipped away with ink and knife made you think he was one."*

EX-TRAFFIC COP TAKES UP FARMING



MRS. DUCK: *I can't find that egg I produced this morning anywhere.*
MRS. HEN: *You must have mislaid it.*



INTREPID HUNTER: *Dear me! I wish I had a peanut.*

WHY I'M GLAD MY DOG CAN'T TALK
SHE CAN'T TELL ME ALL ABOUT HER DAY.
I SNIFFED IN THE YARD AND THEN I CHEWED ON A REALLY BIG STICK AND THEN I JUST RAN BACK AND FORTH FOR A WHILE AND...
"YAWN"
WAG
SHE CAN'T COMPLAIN ABOUT HER FOOD.
DOG FOOD AGAIN? HOW COME I CAN'T EAT WHAT YOU'RE EATING?
DOG
SHE CAN'T BE CRITICAL OF THE GAMES WE PLAY.
CAN'T YOU THROW IT ANY FARTHER? YOU THROW LIKE A GIRL.
SHE CAN'T COUNT.
HEY, HOW COME I HAVE TO DO A TRICK TO GET ONE COOKIE, AND YOU DON'T DO ANYTHING BUT GET FOUR?
SHE CAN'T GOSSIP TO MY PALS.
AFTER SHE HUNG UP THE PHONE WITH YOU, SHE SAID, "HE SURE IS FULL OF HIMSELF."
SHE CAN'T MAKE ME FEEL GUILTY.
I'M HOME!
I'VE BEEN WAITING AND WAITING. YOU SAID YOU'D BE RIGHT BACK, BUT YOU'VE BEEN GONE FOR TWO HOURS.
MERICLE '99

The Wild Thornberrys

Lost and Found

Eliza– She can talk with animals. (But it's a secret.)

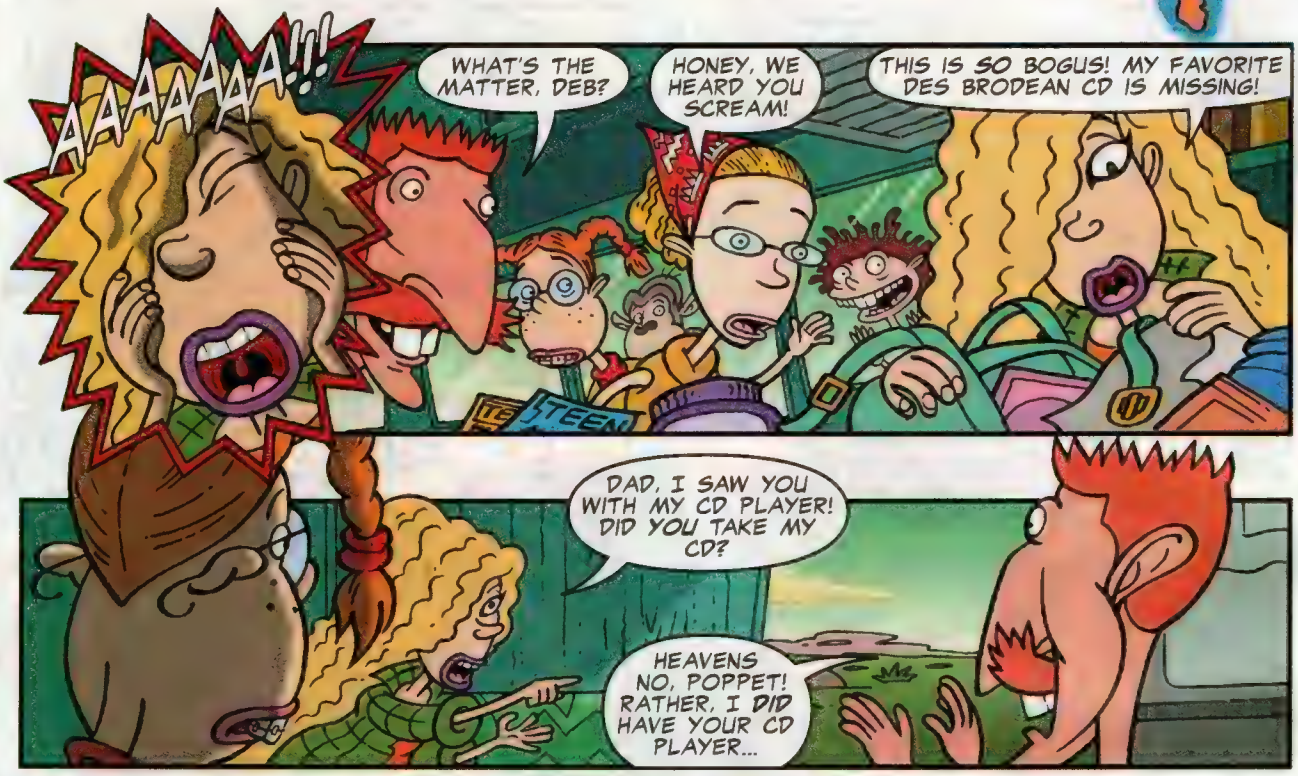
Darwin– Eliza's chimpanzee pal (He'd prefer to be human.)

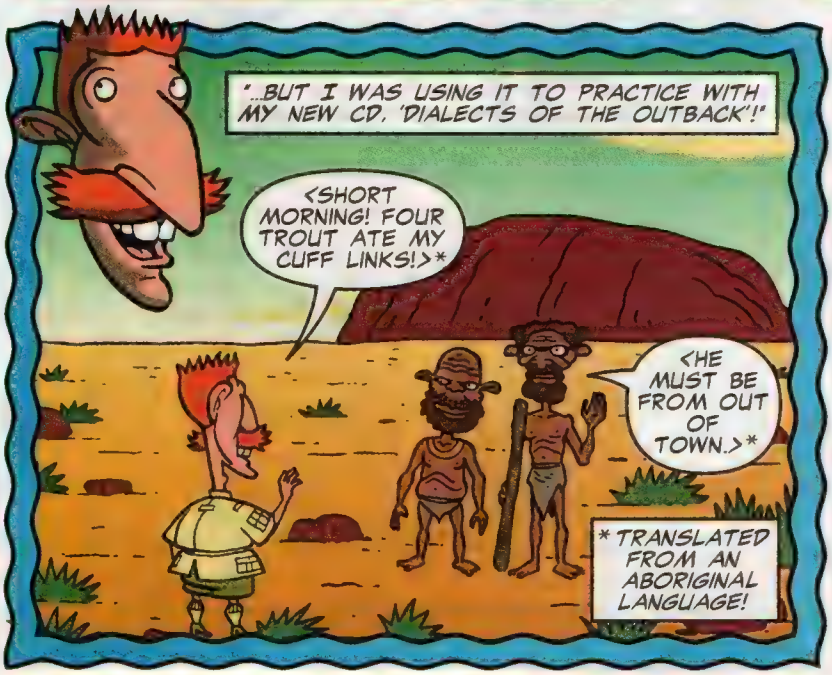
Donnie– Wild child (raised by orangutans)

Debbie– Eliza's older sister (She'd rather be at the mall.)

Marianne– Mom (and nature film-maker)

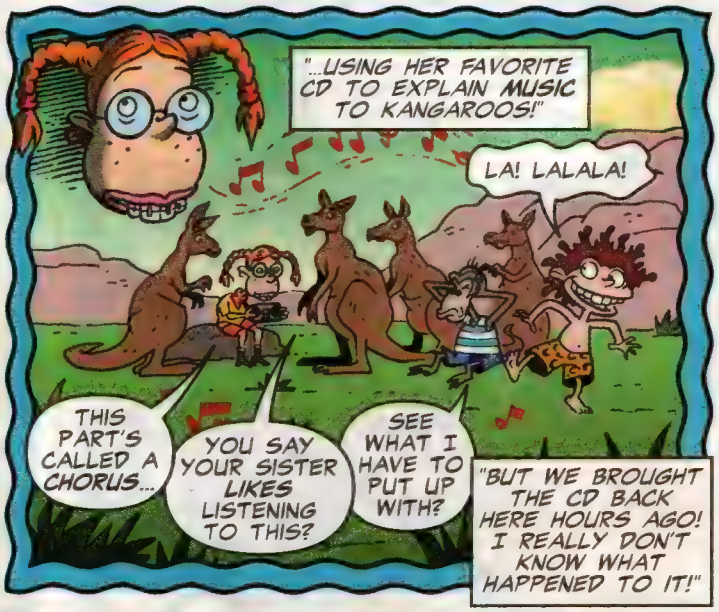
Nigel– Dad (and naturalist and nature-show host)

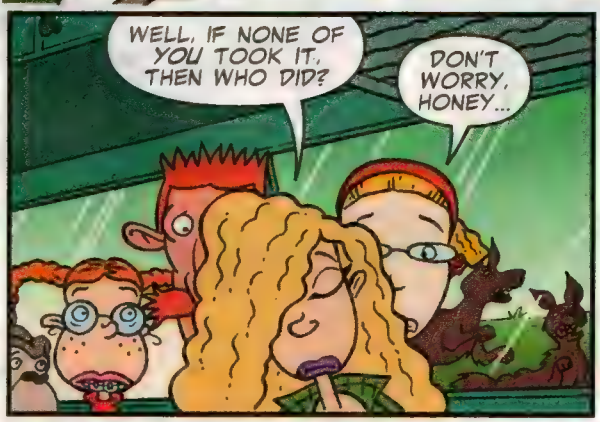

AAAAAAA!!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DEB?
HONEY, WE HEARD YOU SCREAM!
THIS IS SO BOGUS! MY FAVORITE DES BRODEAN CD IS MISSING!
DAD, I SAW YOU WITH MY CD PLAYER! DID YOU TAKE MY CD?
HEAVENS NO, POPPET! RATHER, I DID HAVE YOUR CD PLAYER...

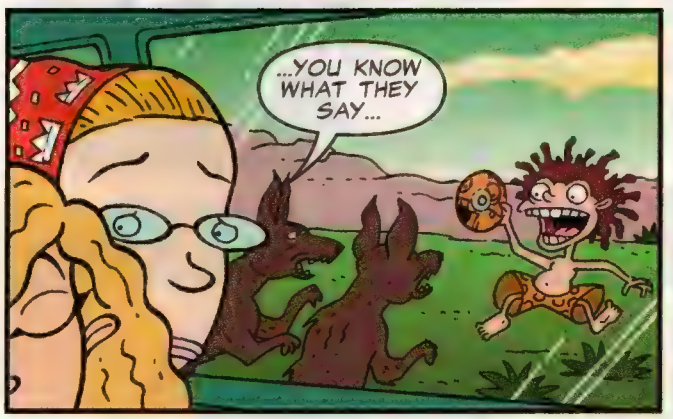


I SAW YOU WITH MY BACKPACK EARLIER, MOM!
YOU DRAGGED ME AS FAR AWAY FROM A MALL AS I COULD POSSIBLY GET. DID YOU TAKE MY CD, TOO?!
OH, DEBBIE, HONESTLY. I WAS ONLY PUTTING YOUR KNAPSACK BACK...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, DWEEB-ERELLA? YOU'RE ALWAYS DIGGING INTO MY STUFF!!
EEP!
DARWIN, DONNIE, AND I WERE OUT ALL DAY EXPLORING!
I CAN'T TELL HER WHAT WE WERE REALLY DOING...


"...USING HER FAVORITE CD TO EXPLAIN MUSIC TO KANGAROOS!"
LA! LALALA!
THIS PART'S CALLED A CHORUS...
YOU SAY YOUR SISTER LIKES LISTENING TO THIS?
SEE WHAT I HAVE TO PUT UP WITH?
"BUT WE BROUGHT THE CD BACK HERE HOURS AGO! I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO IT!"





Story: Adam Beechen. Pencils: Joe Staton. Inks: Vince DePorter. Lettering: Ken Lopez. Coloring: James Peters. *The Wild Thornberrys* created by Klasky Csupo Inc.

Miriam and her pal Webster "Funky" Wagnall are trying out a new word: *filch.* But they don't always use it correctly. Can you figure out which of the three definitions below is the real one?
Answer on page 94.

1

Filch: To steal in a casual manner.

Ow, my aching ankles. Someone filched my Flair Jordans out of my backpack, Miriam, and I had to play barefoot.
Oh, Funky, who would do such a thing?

2

Filch: A particularly thick type of quicksand usually found in dense jungles.

Egad! This is the most dastardly filch I have ever encountered. Give me your hand at once!
You don't need my hand, Funk. You need some cinnamon and butter.
SHAKER OATS

3

Filch: A songbird of Greek mythology whose repetitive singing is said to drive men insane.

How do I live without you? How do I live without you? How do I live without you?
How do I live without you? How do I live without you? How do I live without you?
Do something, Miriam! Do something! That filch will drive me mad! Quick... plug my ears with wax!
Funkster, I'd say you have enough wax already!

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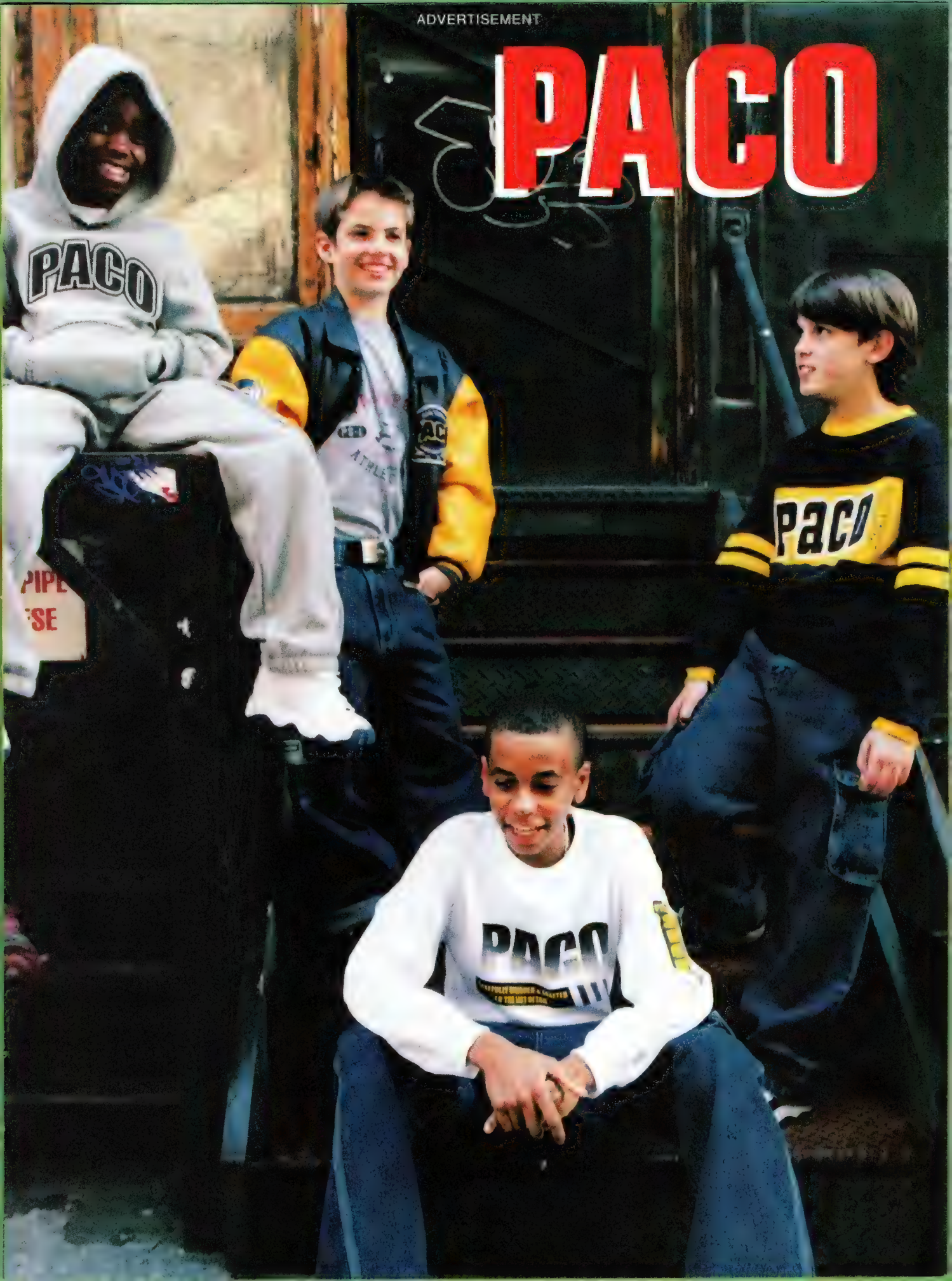

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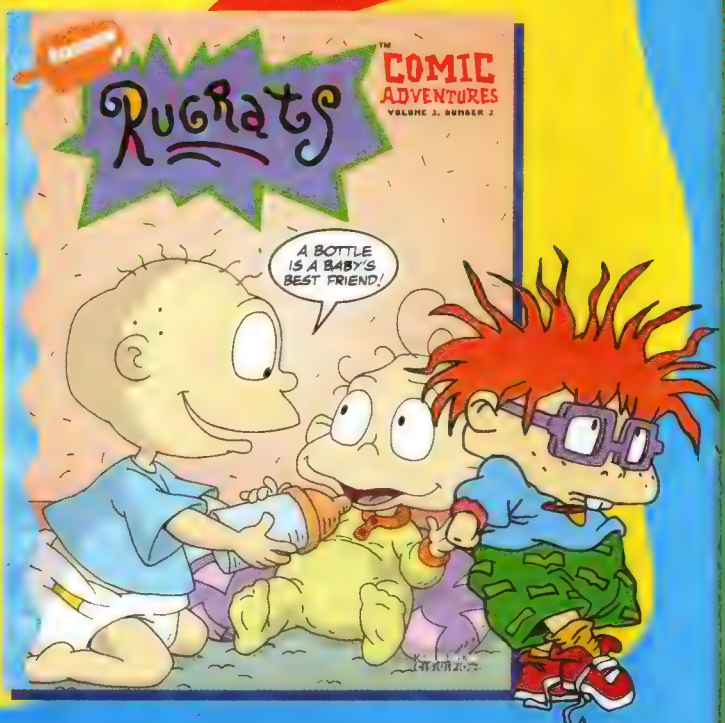

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Smarty Underpants

CAPTAIN UNDERPANTS
AND THE INVASION OF THE INCREDIBLY NAUGHTY CAFETERIA LADIES FROM OUTER SPACE (and the Subsequent Assault of the Equally Evil Lunchroom Zombie Nerds)
TONS-O-FUN
LOTS-O-LAFFS
FLIP-O-RAMA
THE THIRD EPIC NOVEL BY
DAV PILKEY
ATTACK OF THE HUMONGOUS TITLE: The third book in the Captain Underpants series, new this fall, has a dangerously long title.

Dav Pilkey is the author and illustrator of the Captain Underpants series, among many other books. The series chronicles the adventures of George Beard and Harold Hutchins, two fourth-grade pranksters who accidentally hypnotize their evil principal into becoming the nearly naked superhero Captain Underpants. Dav (pronounced Dave) briefed us about his life and his writing.

Real

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: When did you invent Captain Underpants?

DAV PILKEY: When I was in the second grade. I got in trouble constantly for making my friends laugh. To punish me, my teacher would send me out into the hallway. Before long, I was spending so much time in the hall that my teacher moved a desk out there for me. I had a lot of spare time there, so I began drawing pictures, writing stories, and making my own comic books. Quite a few of them were about a superhero named Captain Underpants.

Why underpants?

My second-grade teacher gave me the inspiration. She used the word *underpants* during class one day, and everybody laughed. She got mad and said, "Underwear is *not* funny!" This only made us laugh harder. At that moment, I discovered that underwear was a powerful thing: It could make my friends laugh, and it could make my teacher very angry!

Your main characters, George and Harold, always get in trouble. Is that what you were like in school?

Unfortunately, yes. I was labeled a bad kid because I was always trying to make everybody laugh. That's why I'm so fond of George and Harold *(right)*. They're not bad boys. They just have a silly streak. I think most kids do.

Did you get much encouragement as a writer or cartoonist?

Not until college. I had an English teacher who thought I was a good writer and who loved my cartoons. She was the first person to encourage me to write children's books.

What inspires your stories?

Much of the inspiration comes from a lot of cartoons I watched when I was growing up. I really liked Rocky and Bullwinkle cartoons and *Underdog*.

I don't think Underdog wore underpants.

How did you come up with the names George Beard and Harold Hutchins?

The names George and Harold were taken from the Georgie the Ghost books and from *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. Their last names are from two kid actors, Matthew Beard and Bobby Hutchins, who played Stymie and Wheezer in the old *Little Rascals* films.

What is your advice for kids who want to be writers?

Spend as much time as you can daydreaming.

Have you ever fought crime while wearing only your underpants and a cape?

No, but last April I got locked out of my house—it's a long story—and had to run down the street to my girlfriend's house in my underwear. I was surprised nobody called the cops on me! ❑

STICKY BUSINESS: George and Harold fleeing from their furious principal, who they glued to a chair.

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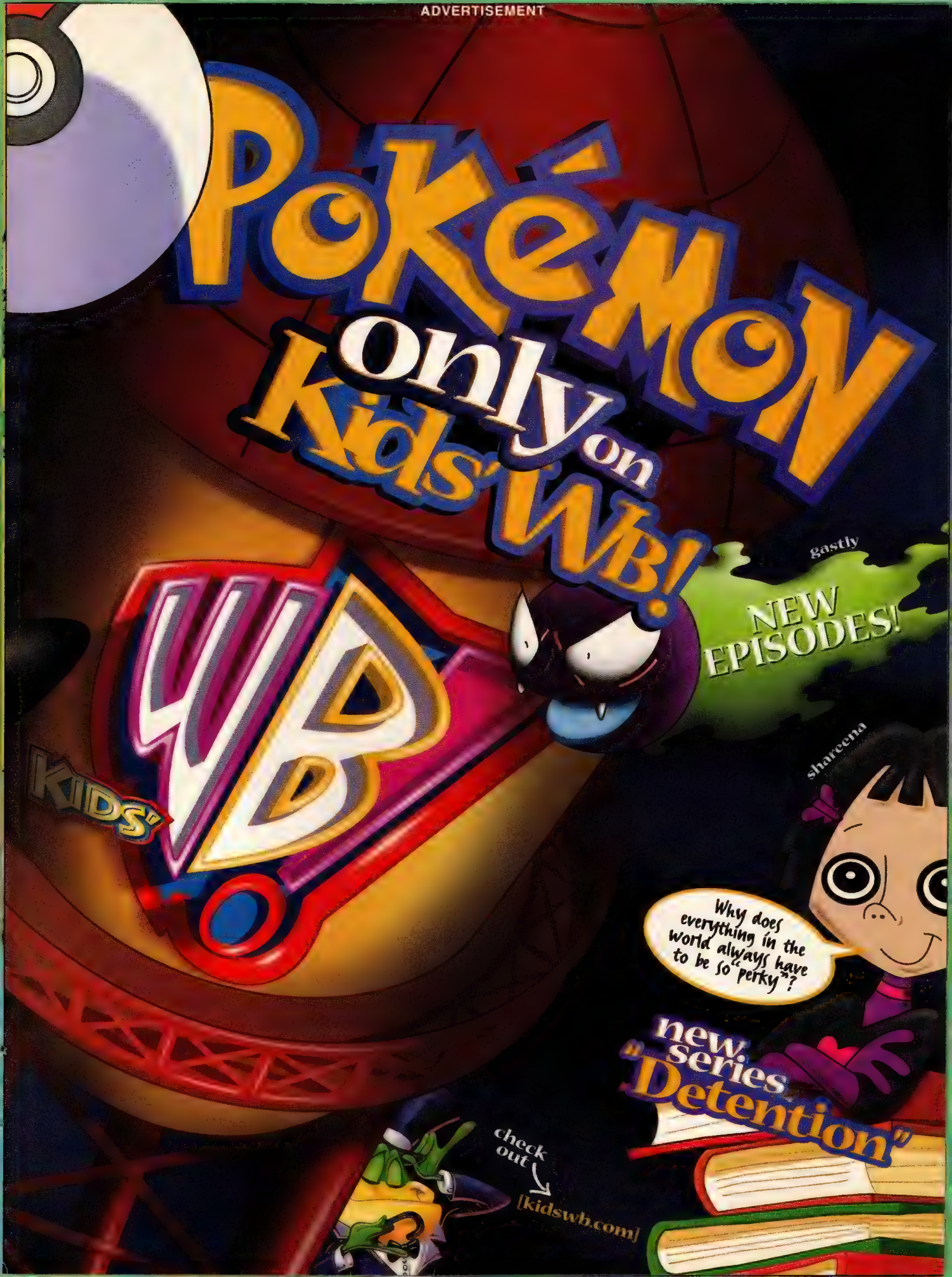

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He's Big! He's Green!
He's just in time for breakfast!
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Rugrats
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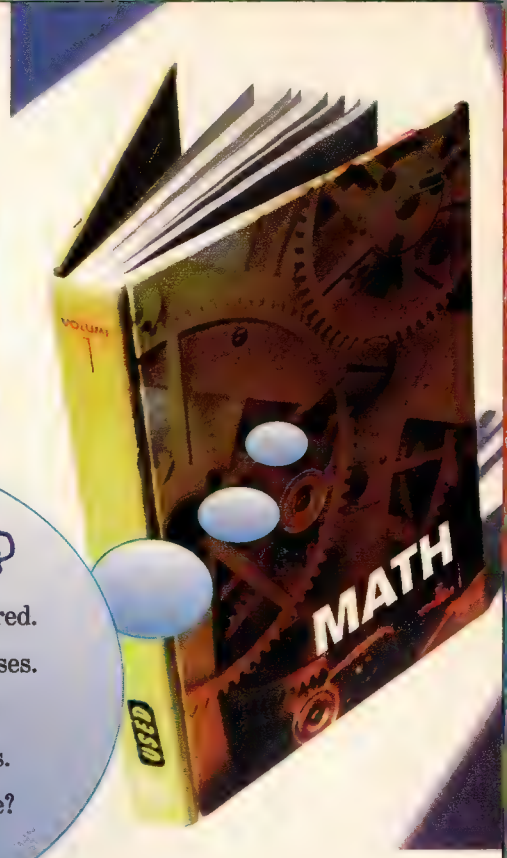
WHAT'S INSIDE THE BRAIN OF...



...A MATH TEXTBOOK?

I've got all the angles covered.

I have my pluses and minuses.

It must be 360° in here!

I have so many problems.

Don't you think I'm acute?

Divide and conquer!

...YOUR LOCKER?

I have a very steely disposition.

If this ham-and-cheese sandwich sits in here any longer, it's going to grow legs and walk out!

I can't see a thing through these slits!

Would it *kill* you to clean me up once in a while?

We make a good combination.

I'm slammin'!

...THE WATER FOUNTAIN?

I've been kissed by every kid in this school.

I'm under a lot of water pressure.

All my work...right down the drain!

Hey, kid, ever hear of breath mints?

I...*hate*...bottled water.

Read My Lips: No Reading Out Loud!

To make sure that the next time you're asked to read out loud in class is the *last* time, try any of the following*:

Sing the words to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

Read with exaggerated emotion, bursting into laughter and tears at key parts.

Sing every line like an opera singer.

Speak like Jar Jar Binks.

Pretend to fall asleep midway through and snore loudly.

Mumble every third word.

Spray a packet of ketchup all over your desk. When it's your turn to read, tell the teacher you have a nosebleed and ask to go to the nurse.

Read very softly. When the teacher asks you to speak louder, whisper, "But I'm already screaming!"

Mispronounce every word.

Hiccup after every word.

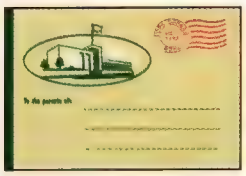
Imitate Austin Powers' accent and add "bay-bee!" to the end of every sentence, bay-bee!

*NICKELODEON MAGAZINE is not responsible for any trips to the principal's office.

Or to the doghouse.

Back-to-School Kit

Welcome to our brainy Back-to-School Kit. Check out the prank postcards *(see directions, below)*, and don't forget to decorate your school desk with the signs on pages 63 and 64. When it's time to head to the cafeteria, feast your eyes (and everyone else's) on the lunchtime pranks on pages 65 and 66.



School Postcard

Carefully tear out the prank postcard, fill in the blanks with your name and address, and slip the fake notice into your family's mail.

Kidney Adventures Subscription Card

Carefully tear out the prank subscription card to *Kidney Adventures* magazine, and slip it onto your teacher's desk.

DESK SIGNS

Start off the school year on the right foot with these signs for your desk. Carefully tear along the dotted lines, fold the signs in half, and put them on your desk.

NICKELODEON magazine

Proud Child of a Former Honor Student

Desk for Sale

NICKELODEON magazine

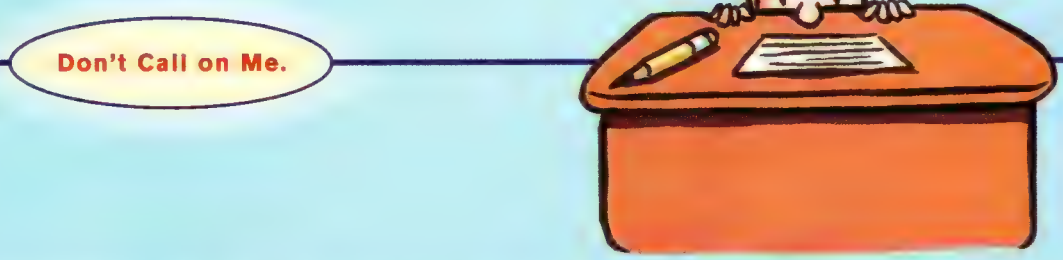
DESK SIGNS

Start off the school year on the right foot with these signs for your desk. Carefully tear along the dotted lines, fold the signs in half, and put them on your desk.

Yes,
I Do Want to Share It
With the Rest of the Class.

Left BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

Call on Me!



THE HOLEY STRAW

To do this prank, you'll need a clean pushpin and a wrapped drinking straw from your school cafeteria.

1. Without removing the wrapper from the straw, use the pushpin to punch about 20 holes through the straw every half-inch or so *(top)*. Punch the holes on all sides so they don't look too obvious.
2. At lunch, switch the holey straw with your friend's when he or she isn't looking.
3. As your friend tries to suck liquid up the straw, look very serious and say, "You need to get in shape. Looks like you don't have much lung power."

WHO CUT THIS ONE?

Amaze your friends by unpeeling a banana that's already sliced. To do this trick, you'll need a small unpeeled banana and a large clean paper clip.

1. Unfold the first bend of the paper clip *(above, left)* and poke the straight end into the banana about one inch from the stem.
2. Swivel the paper clip from side to side inside the banana to slice it *(above, right)*. Try to slice all the way through the fruit, but be careful not to puncture the peel. It may take some practice to get it right.
3. Repeat step 2 every half-inch or so down the length of the banana until you have made about eight cuts.
4. At lunch, casually hand the banana to a friend and say, "Could you peel this banana for me? I'm terrible at getting them started." Your friend will be amazed as the neatly sliced pieces tumble out.

This prank was a cut above the rest.

PRANKS FOR LUNCH

Make mealtime more memorable with these appeeling pranks. Have an adult help you prepare each trick.

Real

FRUIT OF THE LOONY

Prove to your friends that Twinkies grow on vines. If possible, prepare this trick just before you do it so the Twinkie doesn't get squished. You'll need a large unpeeled banana, a large clean paper clip, a Twinkie, a fork, and scissors. (Run the paper clip under hot water to be sure it's clean.)

1. First you'll need to make a hard-to-see opening in the banana peel that you can later slip a Twinkie into. Start by unbending the first fold of the paper clip and using the straight end to make a slit in the peel that's a little longer than a Twinkie. Begin just below the stem and cut along the inside curve of the banana.

2. Poke the paper clip through the opening and use it like a knife to slice the banana into small pieces.

3. Use the fork to pull the pieces out through the slit until the top half of the banana is hollow. You can break the slices into smaller pieces, if necessary, to get them out.

4. Carefully place the Twinkie into the hollow part of the banana. You may have to squash the Twinkie down a little with the fork to make it fit–just be careful not to break the Twinkie.

5. Use the scissors to cut a small notch near the stem so the banana will be easy to peel later.

6. At lunchtime, after everyone has started eating, take out the banana. Hold it with the slit facing toward you, and cover the slit with your hand.

7. Peel the banana to about halfway down the Twinkie and start eating it as if it's perfectly normal. If someone asks, "What's wrong with your banana?" just say, "It's not a banana, it's a Twinkie with the husk still on. We grow them in our backyard."

CONTINUED

FUNNY MESSAGE HERE

Contest

We've given you eight signs
for your desk (pages 63–64).
Now it's time to make your own!

Real

Here's how to enter:

1 **Write a funny message, slogan, or job title in the space below. Make it no longer than one sentence.**

NAME ..... AGE .....

STREET ADDRESS .....

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE .....

PHONE NUMBER (.....) .....

All entries become the exclusive property of NICKELODEON MAGAZINE.

2 **Mail your entry by September 28, 1999, to:**

Desk Sign Contest
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE
1515 Broadway, 40th floor
New York, NY 10036

Not only will we print our favorites in a future issue, but **each winner will receive an actual desk sign** inscribed with his or her entry! Winners will also receive a Nickelodeon T-shirt, Floam, and other Nick stuff!

Real Knowing Write

The problem with printing something is that if you make a really dumb mistake, sooner or later the Nick Mag "Goof Troupe" guy will find out.

AN OFFER THEY COULDN'T REFUSE

Three people drove past a billboard in Scranton, Pennsylvania, last April and decided to follow the directions on the sign. The roadside ad was designed to look like a giant coupon with the words BRING IN THIS AD AND YOU'LL GET A FREE PAIR OF SHOES written in huge letters. So that's exactly what the trio did. They took the 14-foot by 48-foot vinyl sign off the billboard and contacted the store to claim their free footwear. Store managers were pretty shocked—they didn't really mean what they had written—but they did hand over the shoes. The owners promised their next billboard will warn people not to take the offer literally.

UNTIED WE STAND

During the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton last January, United States senators were asked to sign their names in something called an oath book. They each received a souvenir pen for the occasion that had UNTIED STATES SENATOR written on the barrel. (That's right—not *United*, but *Untied*.) Even though the senators may have felt the country was becoming untied during the trial, the misprint on the pen was just a coincidence.

All pens are not created equal.

From Wrong

AN APPLE FOR THE *TECHES?*

The city of Houston, Texas, produced a colorful 14-page booklet last December to promote the mayor's new youth and education programs. They should have handed in the report to a teches—um, a teacher—first. There were spelling and grammar mistakes on nearly every page. For example, *teachers* was written as *teches* and *library* as *libray*. The city had to throw out all 2,000 copies of the botched booklets, which cost more than $5,000 to make. Then, like all good students, city officials had to redo the report until they got it right.

THEY SHOULD GET A LICKING

Last May the United States Postal Service was caught in a national geographic goof. It printed 100 million new stamps of the Grand Canyon labeled GRAND CANYON, COLORADO. Too bad our country's most famous hole in the ground happens to be in Arizona—which isn't called the Grand Canyon State for nothing. At least the embarrassed Postal Service was able to destroy the flawed stamps before they were handed out.

WARNING: DO NOT READ WITHOUT A BRAIN

Some products have instructions on their packages that seem *really* obvious. These warnings are designed to protect companies from nonserious lawsuits. A group called the Michigan Lawsuit Abuse Watch (M-Law) runs a yearly contest looking for the dumbest warning labels of the year.* Here are some of its past winners:

On a foldable baby stroller:
"Remove child before folding."

On a bottle of prescription sleeping pills:
"Warning: May cause drowsiness."

On a fireplace lighter:
"Do not use near fire, flame, or sparks."

On a toner (ink) cartridge for a laser printer:
"Do not eat toner."

On a hair dryer:
"Never use hair dryer while sleeping."

On a cardboard sunshield placed in a car's windshield:
"Do not drive with sunshield in place."

*If you want to enter M-Law's Wacky Warning Label Contest of 1999, send in a real label (or a photocopy) with a dumb warning to:

M-Law
26911 Northwestern Highway, Suite 300
Southfield, MI 48034

The deadline is September 25, 1999. For information on prizes, write to the address above.

CONTINUED

TATT'S FUNNY

Lee Williams of Roseville, Michigan, sued a local tattoo parlor for $25,000 last February after a friend burst out laughing at Lee's new tattoo. The word *villain* was misspelled as *villian* on his right forearm. When Lee's skin was inked in 1996, he and the tattoo artist debated how to spell *villain.* With no dictionary handy, Lee guessed…wrong. The 23-year-old later underwent an expensive and painful procedure to remove the misspelled message. The tattoo parlor's owner says Lee is the villain in the unsettled lawsuit, however, because the tattoo artist wrote the word into Lee's arm exactly how he wanted it.

THEY MISSED THE POINT

Kids at Ticonderoga Elementary School in upstate New York received pencils last fall that were printed with an antidrug message. Too bad the pencil's slogan, TOO COOL TO DO DRUGS, turned into COOL TO DO DRUGS and then just DO DRUGS in the sharpener. Sharp-eyed fourth-grader Kodi Mosier figured out the goof. The company that made the pencils quickly recalled them—and sent Kodi and his class an apology and a box of free T-shirts.

MESSY MARVIN

Charles Darrow made a spelling mistake 64 years ago that everyone still remembers. When he invented Monopoly in 1935, he used names of local New Jersey streets and neighborhoods. He called one of the game's yellow streets Marvin Gardens. However, the real neighborhood in Margate, New Jersey, is spelled *Marven* Gardens. At a 1995 ceremony in New Jersey honoring the game's 60th birthday, residents of Marven Gardens said they didn't mind the famous mistake. They even plan to put a two-foot by four-foot bronze sign in town explaining the goof.

DODGING THE TOURISTS

If you're planning your family's next vacation to Iowa, *don't* stay at the Fort Dodge Recreational Facility listed on 1.7 million new state maps. Even though people play basketball and volleyball there, it's not exactly a recreational site. It's the new state prison. Someone goofed when making the maps and listed the jail as a recreational facility instead of a correctional facility. State officials couldn't make a correctional, uh, *correction,* in time. Revised maps will come out next year. ❑

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Great Dates in Waffle History!

Use these facts to impress your friends, your teachers, and your parents (or at least make them hungry for crispy Aunt Jemima® Waffles!)

2 B.C. Waffle batter was invented in China. (Actually, it was more like pancake batter because the waffle iron hadn't been invented yet!)

1869 Cornelius Swarthout patents the first waffle iron in the U.S. Whew! Waffles are finally here!

Meet zee new Breakfast Heads

1919 The first pop-up toaster is invented. But nobody's made a waffle that fits in it yet!

and the Aunt Jemima® contest winners!

Allison Age: 10 Berryton, KS

Thanks, Allison and Kaysie, for helping us name these new Breakfast Heads!

Kaysie Age: 2 Pittsfield, MA

1968 Aunt Jemima® starts making frozen waffles. Now, kids can enjoy one of their favorite breakfast foods every day, right out of the toaster!

1999

Kids asked Aunt Jemima® to make waffles that are CRiSPY, TaSTY, rOuND and SmeLL GooD. So we did. Try 'em and see for yourself.

Try New ROUND Aunt Jemima® Waffles and be a part of waffle history.

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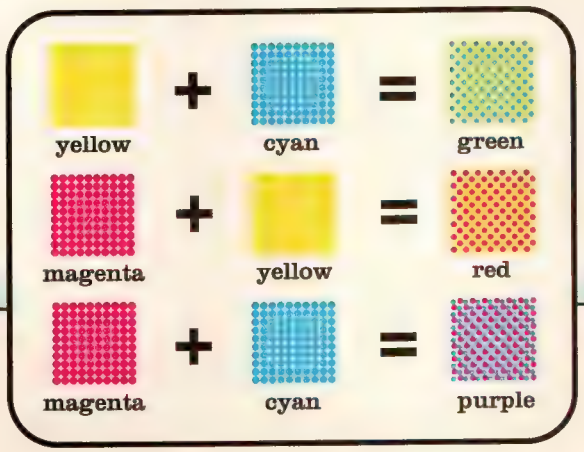
Meet the Press

Real

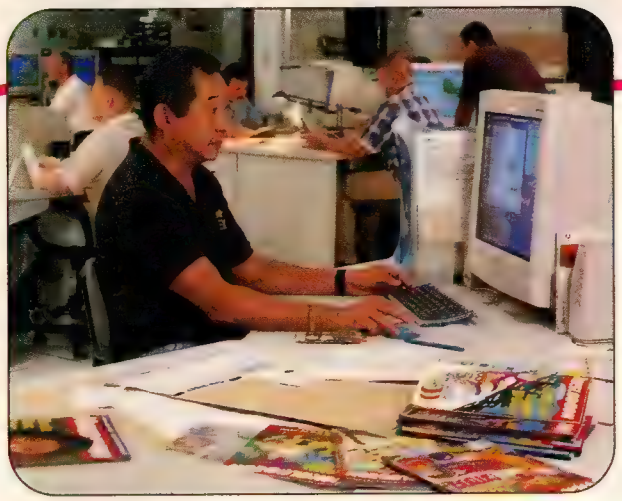
We visited Quebecor Printing in Clarksville, Tennessee, to see how magazines—and Nick Mag in particular—are printed.

An Eye Four Color Though you see many different colors on the pages of NICKELODEON MAGAZINE, only four colors of ink are used to print each issue: **black,** yellow, cyan, and magenta. These four colors are each printed in a pattern of very tiny dots. The dots can be combined to create just about any color under the sun. Printing a magazine this way is a lot easier—and cheaper—than if a printer had to have every single color of ink on hand.

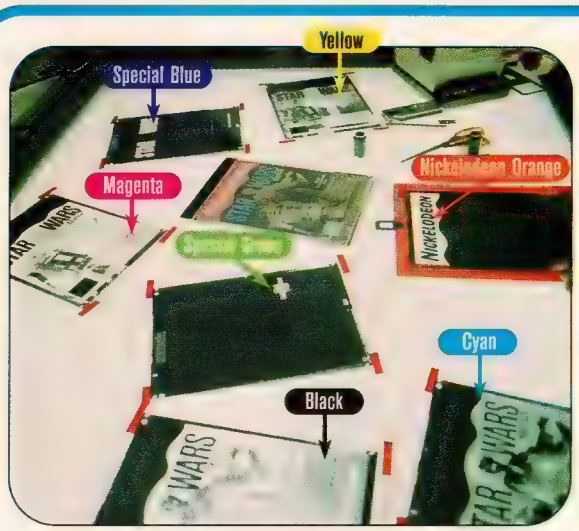
You can look at the pages of this magazine through a magnifying glass to see how the four colors of ink have been used. Or check out the chart at right—we enlarged the dots to show how green, red, and purple are made.



Now that you know something about color, read on to find out how the magazine is made.



1 When the editors and designers at the Nick Mag office in New York City finish creating an issue, we put all the words, illustrations, and photos for each page into computer files and send them to REX THREE, a color separation company in Sunrise, Florida. Using computers, workers such as Denis *(left)* separate every word and image in the files into the four basic printing colors. For example, if a green alien is needed on a page, a computer converts the image into cyan and yellow dots (which will look like green).



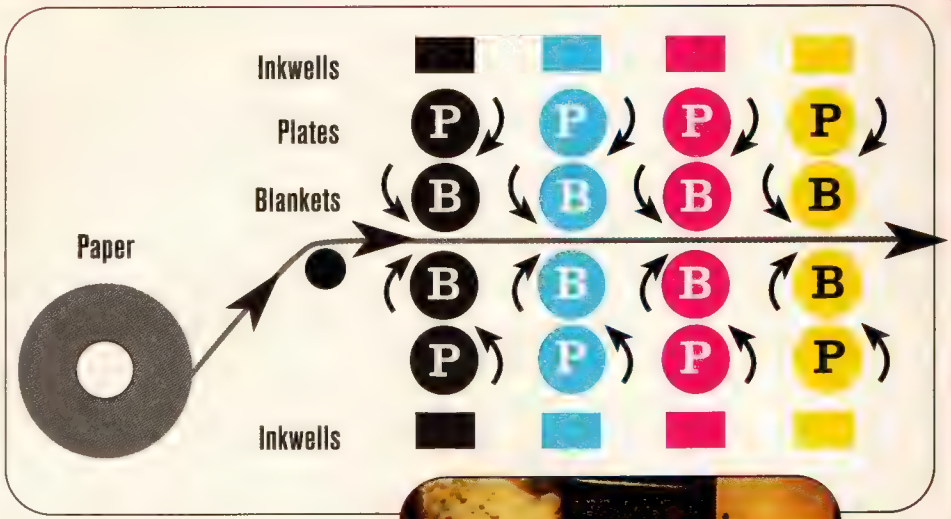
2 Next, workers transfer the dotted patterns for the four printing colors (yellow, cyan, magenta, and black) onto separate sheets of film *(left)*. For our June/July cover, we added three extra pieces of film for three special inks not made from the four basic printing colors: Nickelodeon orange, a special blue, and a special green. (We sometimes use these specially mixed inks to make parts of the cover stand out.) The sheets of film are then sent to Quebecor Printing in Tennessee, where they are checked for scratches and other mistakes.

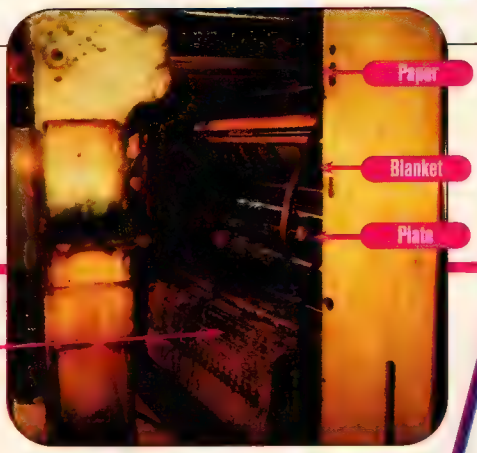
3 The dotted patterns on each piece of film are transferred onto metal plates by a large machine, similar to a camera. The plates are dipped in acid, which burns the patterns into the metal. Here is the cyan plate for the front and back cover of our June/July issue *(right)*. The metal plates are then bolted onto cylinders on the printing press.

4 Before the printing can begin, Shon *(left)*, the roll tender, has to push giant rolls of paper into place on the press and thread the paper into the machine. Each roll of paper weighs about 2,500 pounds (about as much as a small car) and can run through the machine in 20 minutes. (It took more than 300 rolls of paper to print all 1,159,320 copies of the June/July issue.) Shon makes sure that the press always has enough paper loaded to run continuously. He's also responsible for keeping the press' inkwells full.

Continued

5 Now the press is ready to run. As the cylinders holding the metal plates (P) rotate, they get coated with ink, which sticks to the dots. These cylinders then rotate against other cylinders, called blankets (B), which are coated with rubber. The pattern of inked dots gets transferred onto the rubber. As the paper runs through the press, it rubs against the blankets, and the colored dots are transferred onto the paper. There are sets of blankets above and below the paper, so it gets printed on both sides. At right, the Comic Book paper passes over the lower set of cylinders, which are covered with magenta ink.





6 After all the pages have been printed with all four colors, the paper passes through a heater, which dries the ink by heating the page to 300°F. Then a series of cool rollers called chills *(left)* lower the paper's temperature back down to 85°F, which hardens the ink onto the page. It only takes seconds for the paper to go from blank to printed (the press can print 80,000 Comic Book pages in an hour). As the pages come off the press, a machine cuts them apart, folds them in half, and lines them up on a conveyor belt.

7 Randy *(right)*, the head pressman, makes sure the pages are printing correctly—not too dark and not too light. He pulls sample sheets off the conveyor belt while the press is still running and checks them under a special magnifying glass called a loupe. Randy can adjust the amount of any color of ink while the press is running, using the switches at the bottom of the console.

What's in Randy's ear? An earplug. The printing press is extremely loud, so workers wear earplugs to protect their hearing.

8 Workers called joggers pull stacks of finished pages off the conveyor belt *(left)* and load them onto wooden pallets to be moved (with forklifts) to the plant's bindery.

9 At the bindery, a machine puts the pages in order and staples them, using wire held on spools. After the issue is stapled, the pages are trimmed so the magazine is the correct size. (We stapled the Comic Book for this photo *[right]* to show you how it is done, but usually we don't staple the magazine until all the pages are printed.)

10 Finally, the magazines are loaded onto wooden pallets and into mailbags for delivery to newsstands, mailboxes, and you. ❑

Dot's the story!

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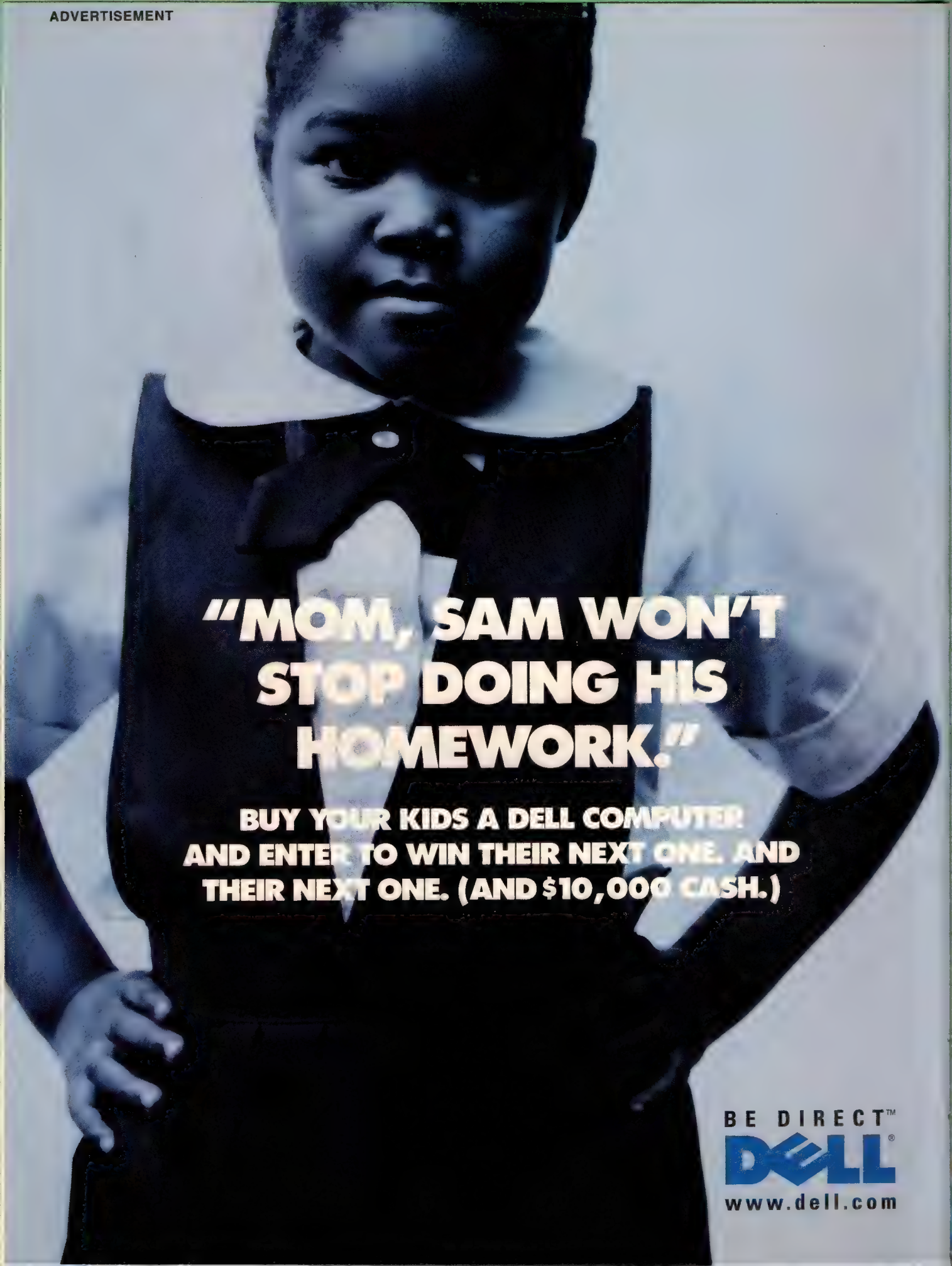
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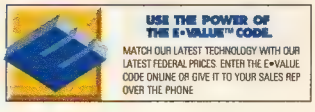
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ALPHABET SOAP

By now, **everybody** knows the formula to MTV's *The Real World.* Take seven strangers, throw them together into a house, and watch them slowly unravel and **explode.** We searched through the alphabet from **A to Z,** picked seven *letters,* and...well, let's see what happens. You need just two people to perform all the parts.

(Note: In a "confessional" scene, the character talks directly to the audience.)

THE PLAYERS

(in order of appearance)

P

T

O

I

X

A

F

P: This is the true story of seven letters picked to live in a house—and have their lives taped—to find out what happens when letters of the alphabet stop being polite and start getting real.

CONFESSIONAL

T: So we were helping to buy stuff for I's surprise birthday party, and O and I...uh, I mean, O and me were getting some food from the A&P.

On the street

O: I'm not in the mood for shopping. O-kay?

T: That is, like, *soooo* bogus, man! I thought we'd get this stuff together.

O: Don't get cross with me, T. You know I've been trying to lose weight, and food shopping isn't exactly what I want to be doing.

T: I can't help getting cross.

O: Oh, boy, here we go again....

CONFESSIONAL

O: I used to be a petite o...and then I just, like, sort of blew up and got all uppercase. Too many Cheerios or Oreos, I guess. Maybe that's why I've been getting a bad vibe from T ever since we moved in here.

Meanwhile, back in the house, I, A, and X are playing pool.

I: So are you guys planning a surprise party for me, or what? Wouldn't that be a capital idea?

X: Typical I. Always thinking of yourself.

A: Now, now, you two.

I: Hey, it's like, you know, my birthday and all, and I just feel that I—

X: Would you stop talking about yourself! "I" this and "I" that! Enough already.

A: You know, I'd rather study with F than listen to you two characters fight.

X: Go study your ABC's, A. You always have to be better than everyone else, don't you? Pointy-head.

continued

More

ALPHABET SOAP

CONFESSIONAL

A: X is so mean. He makes fun of my studying, but all I'm trying to do is become an A+. I think the other letters have just about had it with him, too. He crosses people off his list like they don't even matter, and he's wrong all the time. For X-ample, last week he tried to set me up with a friend of his named D...but it was the middle of X-am week! I think we may have to kick X out tonight, because I simply cannot deal.

CONFESSIONAL

F: So after the surprise party, we're all supposed to get together and talk about what to do with X. Even P is supposed to come, but I'm not so sure. We've been living in this house for a month now, and P hasn't come out of the bathroom yet. This whole thing is probably my fault anyway. I'm a failure at everything. I admit it.

Cut to O's room.

T: I just wanna apologize, O, for getting teed-off before.
O: Oh, it's all right. It means absolutely zero to me. Who came up with the idea for I's surprise party anyway?
T: It was I.
O: *You* did?
T: No. U doesn't live here. It was I.
O: That's what I said.
T: No. You said that U did.
O: I never said that I did. You said that you did.
T: But I told you: U doesn't live here. It was I. I came up with the idea for his *own* surprise party.
O: Like, *whatever.*

Later on in the living room.

Everyone except I: SURPRISE!
I: Oh, wow. This is, like, so totally cool. I never would have expected it.
F: Okay, now we have to talk about what we're going to do...with X.
T: X, sometimes I get so angry with you that I almost flip my lid. So I want you out of here.
X: If you all kick me out, where will I live?
A: Maybe you could go live with your ex, X.
X: Instead of kicking *me* out, why not kick out I—Mr. Egocentric himself? That dude is always thinking only of himself. Everybody in favor, say "aye."

Everyone says "aye" except I. Humbled, I shrinks and becomes a lowercase *i*.

X: Well, the ayes have it. I is outta here!

CONFESSIONAL

i: So they just, like, totally booted me from the house. And on my birthday, too. Anyway, i feel that i've been knocked down to size. But now i've got this cool round head, so i really don't miss any of them. And dot's the truth. They always blamed me for everything, but let me tell you: i'm letter-perfect. i'm hoping to capitalize on this whole thing and get a record deal for my new singing group, N.i.4.N.i.

The N'd.

Bye, i

GAGA for the GOO GOOs

Real

The Goo Goo Dolls are on top after hitting it big with their songs "Slide" and "Iris." Their songwriter, lead singer, and guitarist John Rzeznik (pronounced REZ-nik) spoke to us recently about snacks and his sticky secret to writing songs.

GOO DUDES *(from left):* John Rzeznik, Mike Malinin, and Robby Takac.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: What is a Goo Goo Doll?

JOHN RZEZNIK: It's a doll we saw advertised in an old, old magazine. You could stick your fingers into the back of its rubber head to change its expression. Sometimes I wish we had a name that sounded a little more macho—but we're stuck with it!

How does it feel to hear your songs on the radio?

The first time it happened we started yelling and screaming, "I can't believe it! We're on the radio!" Now I change the station. For some reason, I think it would be bad luck to listen to myself on the radio.

Do you ever get nervous when you're onstage?

Yeah, every night. There are also times when I'm really tired and I don't feel like playing—but then I get out there and see all the people enjoying what we do. That's when I say to myself, "All right, man. I have a great job. I'm a lucky guy."

Does your voice ever crack?

Sure, that's one of the reasons I try to take care of my voice. I don't smoke, I speak a lot more quietly than I used to, and I do voice exercises, such as yodeling. I always feel ridiculous doing them, but I need to save my voice.

What is your favorite city to play in when you're on tour?

My hometown, Buffalo, New York. We always have a great time when we play in small towns, too.

What advice would you give to kids who want to be musicians?

The most important thing is to find a music teacher who doesn't intimidate you. A good teacher will encourage you to find your own creative instinct.

What's your songwriting secret?

Post-it Notes. I scratch little skeletons of ideas onto them and stick them around my house, and look at them later to see what they make me think about.

What's your favorite snack food when you're on tour?

I love junk food, but I try to stay healthy by eating baked potato chips instead of fried ones. I could eat those little Hershey's Kisses with the almonds in the middle all day, but then I'd weigh three hundred pounds.

What would you be doing if you weren't a musician?

I love to cook. Maybe one day I'll go to school and become a chef. I think that would be a lot of fun. ❑

I'll have the Goo-Goo platter, please.

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SEPTEMBER

Real

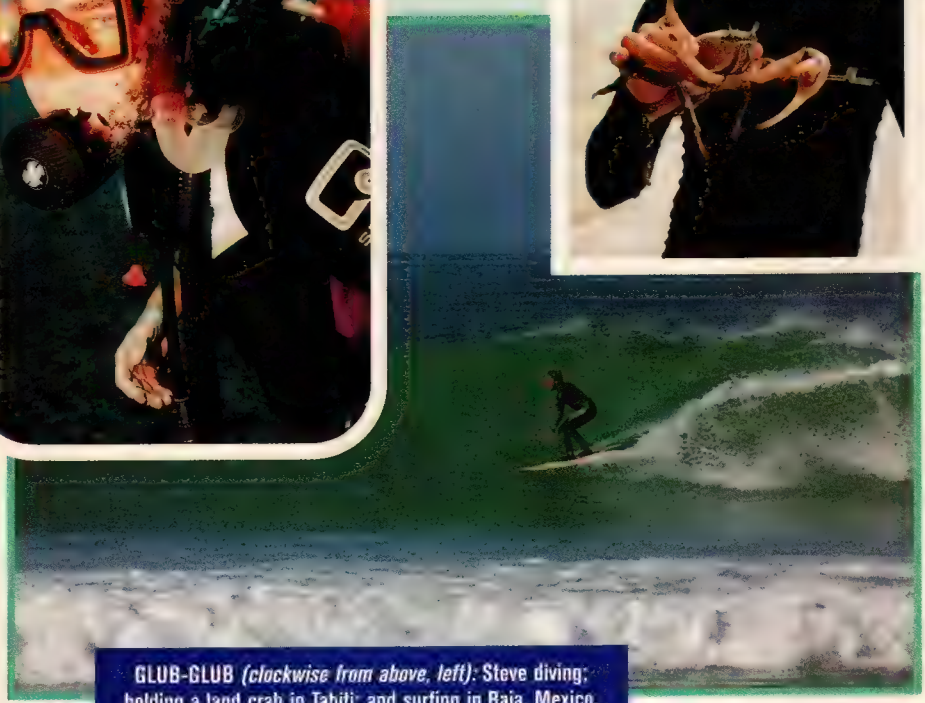
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
September Is National Mushroom Month.			**1** The Liberty Bell arrives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1752 **We promise we won't make a crack about it.**	**2** Louisiana Shrimp and Petroleum Festival and Fair begins in Morgan City **We *thought* the shrimp was a little oily.**		**4** Mike Piazza, baseball player, born, 1968 **His mother ordered one *Piazza*, to go.**
5 **Fungi Fact #1:** Mushrooms don't come from seeds. They grow from tiny spores released from gills underneath the caps.	**6** Labor Day **Work out.**	**7** Julie Kavner, voice of Marge Simpson, born, 1951 **Don't have a blue hair day.**		**9** Adam Sandler, actor, born, 1966 **His *Big Daddy* must have been very happy.**	**10** Goat Days begin in Millington, Tennessee **Get your goat.**	**11** FIRST DAY OF ROSH HASHANAH
12	**13** Michael Johnson, track athlete, born, 1967 **He lives life in the fast lane.**	**14** **Fungi Fact #2:** Most of the U.S. mushroom crop is grown in abandoned mines near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.		**16** Newport International Boat Show begins in Rhode Island ***Yachta, yachta, yachta.***	**17** **Fungi Fact #3:** The ancient Egyptians believed mushrooms could make them live forever.	
19 Trisha Yearwood, singer, born, 1964 **It was a very good *Yearwood.***	**20** **Fungi Fact #4:** Oyster mushrooms grow in many different colors, including pink and blue. YOM KIPPUR	**21**	**22** *Dear Diary Day* **Keep it under lock and key.**	**23** Bruce Springsteen, musician, born, 1949 **He was born in the U.S.A.**	**24** Jim Henson, creator of the Muppets, born, 1936 **Was he a Muppet baby?**	**25** The U.S.'s first lighthouse is lit, 1716 **It brought home the beacon.**
	27 **Fungi Fact #5:** Since mushrooms are extremely sensitive to temperature and humidity, many are grown in air-conditioned rooms.	**28**	**29** Goose Day in Lewistown, Pennsylvania **Get down.**	**30**		

NICKELODEON

If the SquarePants Fit...

Real

Sea-loving **Steve Hillenburg** *(right)* is the creator of ***SpongeBob SquarePants.*** It's a new Nicktoon about the underwater adventures of a happy-go-lucky sponge *(above)* and his splashy pals. We found Steve's answers to our questions quite absorbing.



GLUB-GLUB *(clockwise from above, left):* Steve diving; holding a land crab in Tahiti; and surfing in Baja, Mexico.

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: How did you come up with the character SpongeBob?

STEVE HILLENBURG: I've always been an ocean freak, so I thought I'd like to do a show about lesser-known creatures that live under the sea. Then I thought, *What would be the funniest, weirdest kind of character to be the star?* After considering the octopus, starfish, squid, and crab, I decided the sponge was the most ridiculous.

Is it true that you used to be a marine biologist?

I studied marine biology in college and then worked at a school program at the Orange County Marine Institute [in California]. We had all sorts of tanks, labs, and pools where kids could observe and interact with sea life, and we also ran whale watches.

Do you scuba dive?

I've done some diving, but if I go on a trip, I usually snorkel and surf.

How did you get into animation?

As much as I loved my work at the marine institute, I'd always been interested in drawing and painting, so I decided to go back to school for animation. Some of the films I made in school helped me get my start [in cartoons] on Nickelodeon's

Continued ⇒

BUBBLY BOTTOM: SpongeBob and his friends *(clockwise from top)* Squidward, Sandy Cheeks, and Patrick.

Rocko's Modern Life, which I worked on for three years.

When you were a kid, did anyone encourage you to become an artist?

My third-grade teacher, Mrs. McMahon, was very excited about my drawings. She asked me to draw her portrait once, and she thought it turned out really funny. She was definitely an inspiration.

What were you like when you were ten?

I grew up in Southern California, so pretty early on I was interested in critters and the ocean. I was into science and collecting bugs, and I had a tendency to build strange, smelly things, such as a dinosaur out of chicken bones.

What advice do you have for kids who are interested in animation or science–or both?

Sometimes people say you can only take one path. To that, I say, "Maybe that's not true." My work in marine biology helped me create a cartoon that might appear new to everyone. My other piece of advice is to follow your own instincts as an artist. If you have a style that seems different, have fun with it; be proud of it.

How would you describe the style of *SpongeBob SquarePants?*

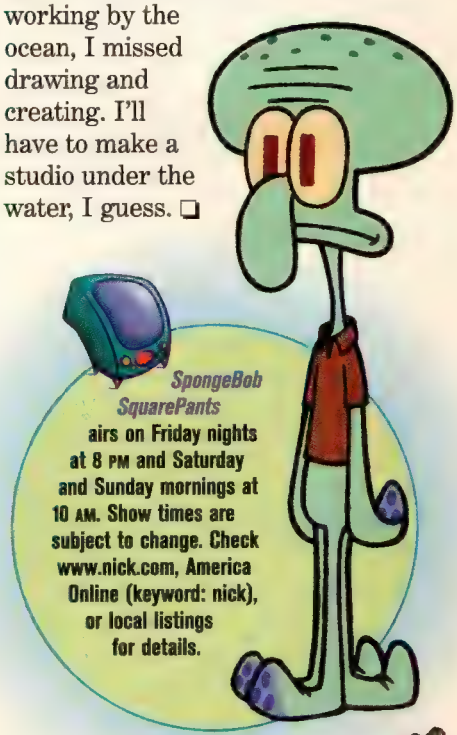
Whimsical. Since I love surfing, and the show takes place in the ocean, I decided to add a lot of Hawaiian surf culture—music, design, SpongeBob's pineapple house. I think that adds to the show's sense of optimism and fun.

Which *SpongeBob* character do you most identify with?

I identify with all the characters on some level. Sometimes I'm grumpy or being snobby about something, so I'm like Squidward *(below).* And sometimes I'm optimistic and naive, just like SpongeBob.

What's more fun: being a cartoonist or working with sea creatures?

They both have their advantages. I miss being able to work at the ocean every day. But when I was working by the ocean, I missed drawing and creating. I'll have to make a studio under the water, I guess. ❑



SpongeBob SquarePants airs on Friday nights at 8 PM and Saturday and Sunday mornings at 10 AM. Show times are subject to change. Check www.nick.com, America Online (keyword: nick), or local listings for details.

Real

Nickelodeon's website (www.nick.com) was started in 1997 to deliver up-to-the-minute Nick news, games, contests, and polls. As we learned on a recent trip to their offices, it takes about 30 people to bring it all together. Here are some of them.

Nick.com: Behind the Screen

WRITERS' BLOC

As the writers of the website's "Inside Nick: Your Backstage Pass to Nickelodeon" area, Sean McEvoy and Deb Levine *(left)* travel frequently to Los Angeles, California, and Orlando, Florida (where most Nickelodeon shows are taped), to interview Nick stars. Sure, it's fun for them, but only *occasionally* do they get starstruck. "I must admit, I was a little nervous interviewing [model] Rebecca Romijn-Stamos at *Kids' Choice,*" says Sean. As for Deb, a highlight was meeting actor Chris Elliott on the set of an upcoming Nickelodeon movie. "I was psyched to meet him," says Deb, "and he turned out to be really funny and nice."

PLUGGED IN

As a kid, Nathan Potter *(above)* wasn't very good at learning foreign languages. But to become the technical manager of nick.com, he had to master several website-building computer languages, starting with the most basic, HTML. Nathan and his staff are responsible for taking other people's designs and words and making them function as a game or activity. For more advanced games and animation, he works with languages such as Perl and Java. And unlike many of his coworkers, one computer just isn't enough to get his job done. With both a PC and a Macintosh at his desk and about 20 servers that link the different parts of the site together, he has learned to accept technical breakdowns. "If my computers don't crash two to three times a day, I'm not really working," says Nathan.

GAME BOY

To design games for nick.com, Steve Milaro *(left)* spends his weekends the same way many kids do: watching Nickelodeon. That's the easy part. The hard part is finding characters or scenes in *Figure It Out, All That, Hey Arnold!,* and *CatDog* that can be turned into funny, challenging games. Once he has an idea, Steve works with the shows' creators to decide how the game will look, sound, and play. Then it's up to a technical programmer, such as Nathan Potter, to turn the idea into reality. The whole process takes about six weeks. Steve is especially proud of the *All That* game in which players have to pitch peas into Miss Pidlin's mouth. He also has a soft spot for the cartoon kid known as Football Head. "I could watch *Hey Arnold!* all day long," says Steve. "In fact, I have!"

Extreme Friends

Real

by Jessica Cutler

Meet the adventurous foursome of the new cartoon *Nickelodeon Rocket Power*. Otto and his sister Reggie team up with their friends Twister and Sam to skateboard, surf, and ski their way through their seaside town, Ocean Shores.

OTTO ROCKET

Always the center of attention

Nickname: Rocket Boy
Hair: Red dreadlocks
Family: Dad—Ray Rocket, an aging surfer—and sister, Reggie
Hobby: Excelling at all extreme sports
Also: He's known as much for his devilish personality as for his athletic talent. He received a √-- in classroom citizenship on his report card.

TWISTER RODRIGUEZ

The amateur filmmaker

Real name: Maurice—but don't tell anyone!
Hair: Red, and it's always covered by a hat.
Family: An older brother, Lars—who calls Twister and his pals Munchkins—and an ice-dancing cousin, Cleo
Hobby: Making videos in Twist-O-Vision (his own filmmaking style)
Also: He's Otto's best friend, but he's not as sharp as he is loyal. He also tends to accuse Sam *(below)* of embarrassing acts, such as picking his nose in the goalie box during roller hockey.

REGGIE ROCKET

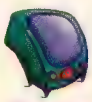
The voice of reason

Nickname: Rocket Girl
Hair: Wavy and purple
Family: She's Otto's sister.
Hobby: Publishing her own magazine, called *Reggie's 'Zine*
Also: She's considered the most responsible member of the Rocket family. A natural athlete, she even won a figure-skating competition without ever taking a lesson.

SAM DULLARD

The brains of the bunch

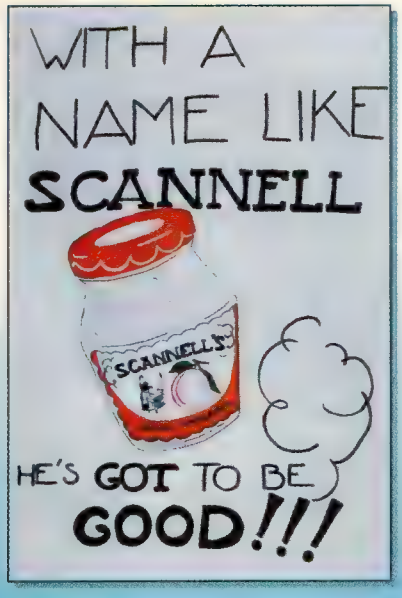
Nickname: Squid
Hair: Blond brush cut
Family: An only child, Sam lives with his mother.
Hobbies: Computers, complaining, and wiping out on his skateboard
Also: He just moved to Ocean Shores from Kansas. He has a tendency to save the day with his technical know-how, but insists on wearing a babyish brand of pajamas called "Shmoopy Woopy Bears."



Nickelodeon Rocket Power **premieres Monday, August 16, at 8:30 PM, then airs Mondays and Wednesdays at 8:30 PM. Show times are subject to change. Check www.nick.com, America Online (keyword: nick), or local listings for details.**

HeY, HeRb!

Where you ask the president of Nickelodeon, Herb Scannell, anything you want.



Did you ever run for a student council office as a kid?

I was elected treasurer of my elementary school and president of my class in junior high school. I still have the campaign posters my dad helped me make. One of them was in the shape and style of a Superman shield and said SCANNELL FOR TREASURER *[far right]*. Another one was a play on an advertisement for Smucker's preserves *[right]*. My dad drew a jar of jam with a label on it that said SCANNELL'S: HERB'S PRESERVES and around it was the slogan WITH A NAME LIKE SCANNELL, HE'S GOT TO BE GOOD!!!

Send your questions to:

HeY, HeRb!
NICKELODEON MAGAZINE
1515 Broadway, 40th floor
New York, NY 10036

Real

What's New on Nick

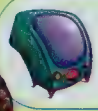
STRANGE JOURNEY

In "Alien Vacation," a 90-minute episode of *The Journey of Allen Strange*, Allen sets out on a trek across Earth with his friends Robbie and Josh. His mission: to find a message he thinks his fellow Xelans have left for him. Tune in to the premiere on **SNICK, September 18,** from **8:30 to 10 PM.**

ELEPHANTS AND LLAMAS AND CATS, OH, MY!

Have the folks at *Figure It Out* gone completely wild? Find out, when the game show starts airing all-new episodes called ***Figure It Out Wild Style.*** The new season focuses on kids and their talented animals, including dogs, parakeets, and snakes. Look for it this fall!

ALIEN VACATION: Arjay Smith as Allen Strange on his most incredible trip yet.



Shows air an hour earlier in the central time zone. Show times are subject to change. Check www.nick.com, America Online (keyword: nick), or local listings for details.

AS EASY AS 1, U2, 3

Have you noticed there are a lot of bands around with numbers in their names? See if you can ace our pop-music math quiz below. (For example: Ben Folds Five + 5ive = Mack 10.) Answers on page 84.

a. Ben Folds Five – Third Eye Blind = _____

b. 5ive + Third Eye Blind – U2 = _____

c. 98° + Matchbox 20 – Sixpence None the Richer = _____

EXTRA CREDIT: Multiply Matchbox 20 by Matchbox 20. Multiply your answer by U2. Then subtract 98°. The bonus band is _____.

Possible Answers

Matchbox 20

U2

112

98°

Sixpence None the Richer

702

Real

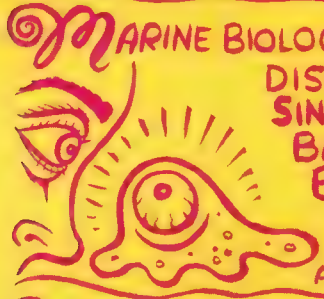
REVOLTING BUT TRUE FACTS

by Ruth Lindy

A TYPE OF FROG IN SOUTH AMERICA CAN PRODUCE A SKUNK-LIKE SMELL FROM ITS SKIN.

DURING HIBERNATION, BEARS DO NOT POOP OR PEE FOR UP TO SIX MONTHS.

MARINE BIOLOGISTS HAVE DISCOVERED SINGLE-CELL BACTERIA SO BIG YOU CAN SEE THEM WITHOUT A MICROSCOPE.



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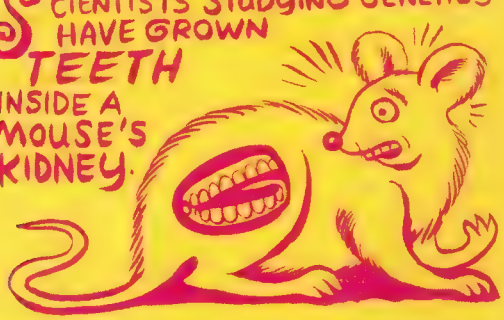
SCIENTISTS STUDYING GENETICS HAVE GROWN TEETH INSIDE A MOUSE'S KIDNEY.



SPORTS SCRIBE

What's it like to write about sports for a newspaper? As a columnist for the New York *Daily News*, Mike Lupica has spent over one score (20 years) finding out. He filed his answers to Becky Burcham's questions.

Looking up from hole,
MIKE LUPICA
KNICKS FACE FINALS FATE
Memorable, end then some
Plan to take 5, Texas two-step
lose, yet so far away for Pat
MIKE LUPICA
The old man would have been proud

NICKELODEON MAGAZINE: Do you go to the games you write about, or do you watch them on TV?
MIKE LUPICA: I attend most of the games I write about.

Do you always get a good seat?
I have a great seat during basketball season. I sit at the end of the press table, right next to the New York Knicks coach. It's a great way to watch the game. At other sports events I sit in the press box *[an area on the sidelines where all the reporters sit].*

What is your favorite sport to watch?
I've loved watching baseball since I was a kid. It was the sport that I fell in love with first.

Do you play any sports?
I play a lot of golf. I've been playing since I was nine years old. And I play backyard baseball and basketball with my sons. In the winter I play tennis.

Did you ever write for your school newspaper?
Yes. When I was a junior in high school, I sold sports stories to *The Telegraph* [in Nashua, New Hampshire] for five dollars an article. That's how I started. When I went to Boston College, I wrote for all three of the school papers. Then I started writing professionally for *The Boston Globe* and other papers in Boston when I was a junior in college. I was hooked.

What's the best thing about writing for newspapers?
Writing for a daily newspaper is like carrying on a conversation between me and the reader. It's so immediate. My friend [writer] Pete Hamill once called it "history in a hurry." I write during and after each game, and it always amazes me that I can leave Madison Square Garden at midnight knowing that at six the next morning, I'll be able to go out on my doorstep and see what I wrote in the paper.

What's the best thing about your job?
I'm doing something I've loved since I was ten years old. I've always loved to write. I've always loved sports. And fortunately, I've been able to combine them and have a wonderful professional life.❑

I've always loved to chew.

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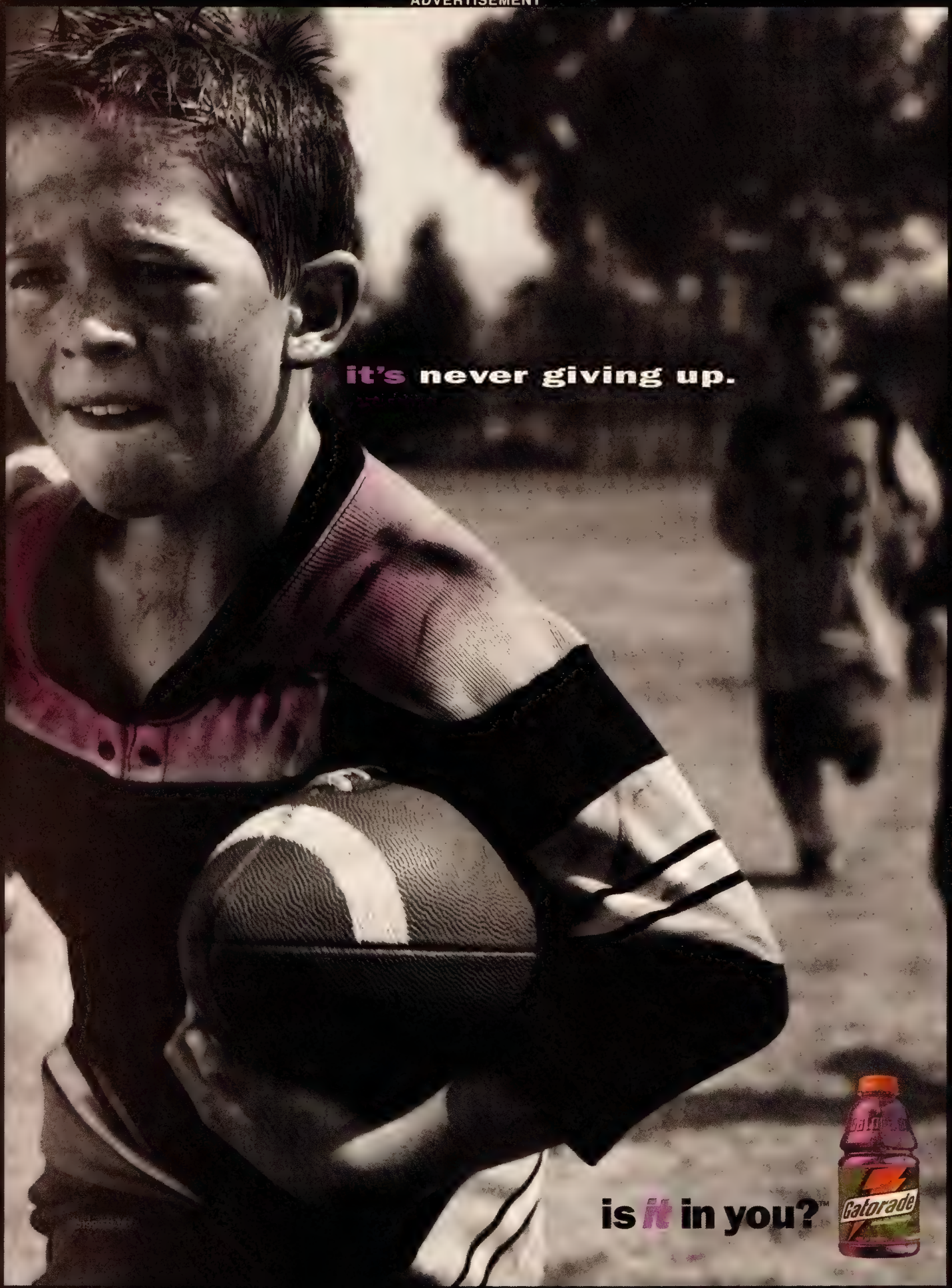

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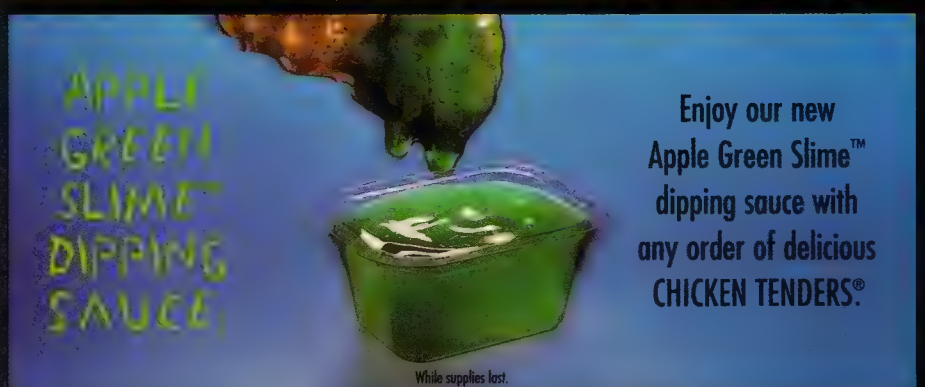

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Whatever You Want

Say What? from the April issue

Kid in frame: Hey look, I'm the Mona Lisa.
Artist: No, you are the Phony Lisa.
Kunal S., age 14
Naperville, Illinois

Kid in frame: I thought you were going to paint me.
Artist: I am.
Lindsey T., age 10
Kansas City, Missouri

Kid in frame: Thank you for wiping my snot.
Artist: Well, I needed the yellow paint!
Shelby D., age 8
Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Kid in frame: I am getting bored standing in this frame.
Artist: Quiet, you! This is a still life.
AnnaLisa J., age 7
Doylestown, Pennsylvania

Kid in frame: Thanks, Jenny, that feels better.
Artist: It should! Look what I just pulled out.
Rachael T., age 8
Lancaster, California

Kid in frame: Hey! What are you looking at? It's a brush, not a mustache!
Artist: It's a brush now, but wait till I get some glue.
Tyler K., age 10
Scottsdale, Arizona

Thanks for all the great entries. Each one is a masterpiece.

Morph Than Meets the Eye

Ross (David Schwimmer) and Rachel (Jennifer Aniston) have gotten together and broken up so many times on *Friends* that artist **Bill Greer** finally put them together for keeps. Even if their relationship doesn't last, the morph-age will.

ANSWERS

Reading the Stars (page 11):
Babyface–E, **Lloyd**–A, **Cook**–D, **Pinkett Smith**–B, **Savage**–G, **Arquette**–F, **Thomas**–C.

Now Read This! (pages 27–8):
1–B, 2–D, 3–C, 4–C, 5–B, 6–C, 7–A, 8–A, 9–B, 10–B, 11–D, 12–A.

A Novel Mess (pages 30–1):
1–Animorphs and *Winnie-the-Pooh;* 2–Goosebumps and *Stuart Little;* 3–*Madeline* and *Matilda;* 4–*The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* and *Where the Wild Things Are;* 5–*Charlotte's Web* and *Curious George;* 6–*Harold and the Purple Crayon* and *Shiloh;* 7–The Magic School Bus and *The Polar Express;* 8–The Baby-Sitters Club and *The Stinky Cheese Man.*

Funky & Miriam (page 54):
The correct definition of *filch* is 1–to steal in a casual manner.

As Easy as 1, U2, 3 (page 89):
A–U2, B–Sixpence None the Richer, C–112, **Extra Credit**–702.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to NICKELODEON MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 37216, Boone, IA 50037-0216. Send subscription correspondence or back issue requests to NICKELODEON MAGAZINE, P.O. Box 37216, Boone, IA 50037-0216.

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GOOF TROUPE

In "Super (Role) Models" (June/July), we misspelled Katharine Hepburn's name. We got burned. In "The Freezer Files" (August), we said George Washington served ice cream at the White House. He served it at home, but he never lived in the White House. (It wasn't built yet.) We cannot tell a lie.

OTHER CREDITS

Cover: *SpongeBob SquarePants* created by Steve Hillenburg. *Nickelodeon Rocket Power* created by Klasky Csupo Inc. **9:** Jada Pinkett Smith and Jake Lloyd were interviewed by Margie Barron. All Zelda photographs by Janette Beckman. Books and bookends at bottom of pages photographed by Cathy Crawford. Francesca Richer, Kathi Rota, and K.C. Witherell helped design this issue. Confidential to Emmy: *Retournez, s'il vous plaît!* To Elisa Zuritsky: Bye-bye! EZ does it.

NICKELODEON magazine

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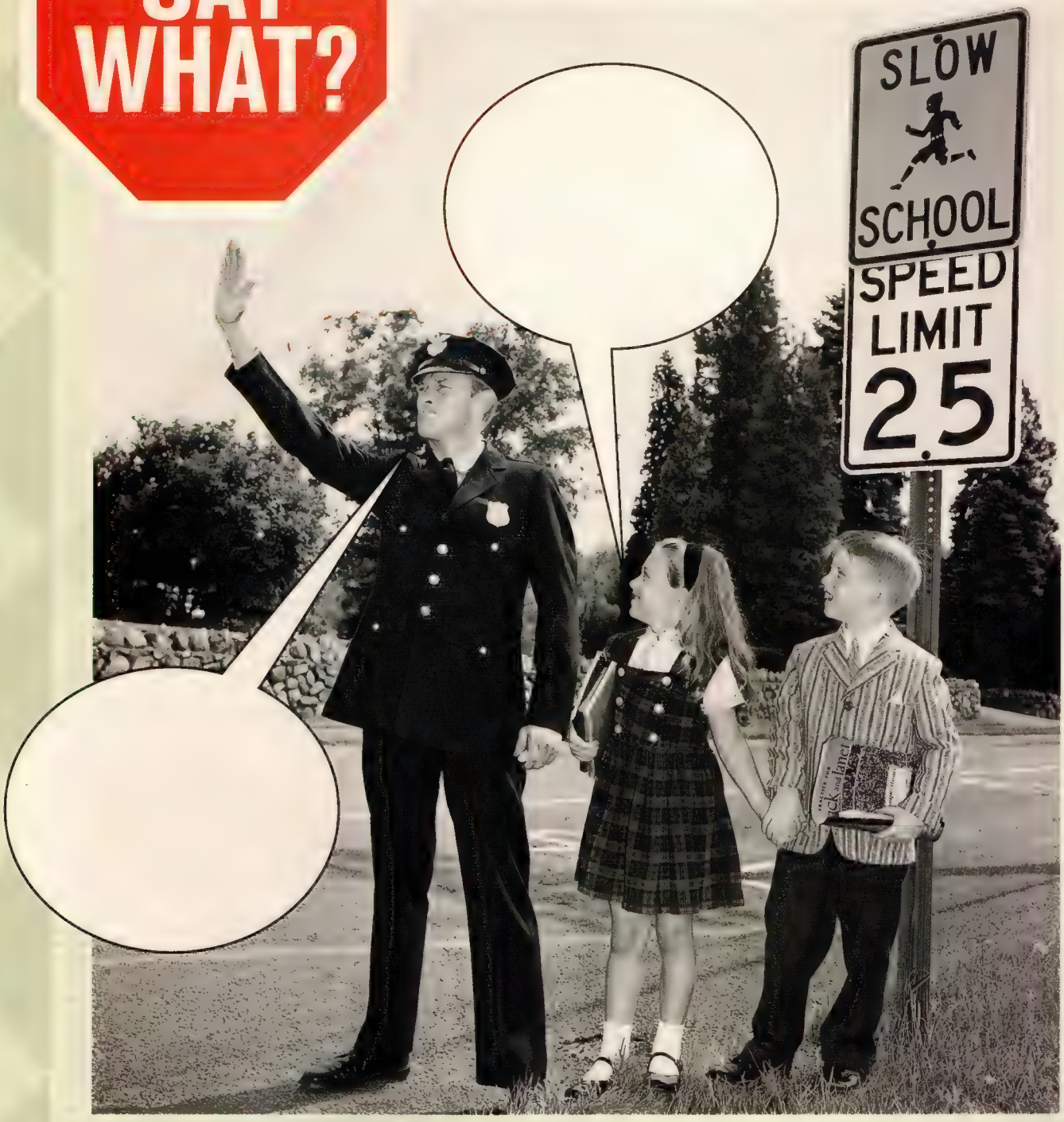

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September
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Get Ready,
Get Set,
Scratch,
Sniff & See!

Smell-O-Vision repeats
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THE NOSE FLARE: Stretches the nostrils for maximum scent absorption

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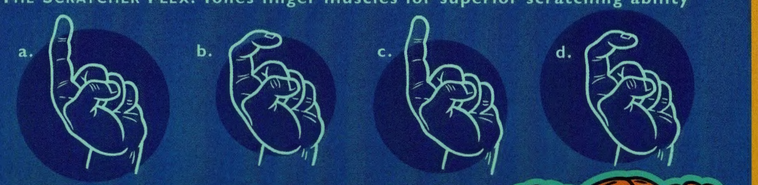

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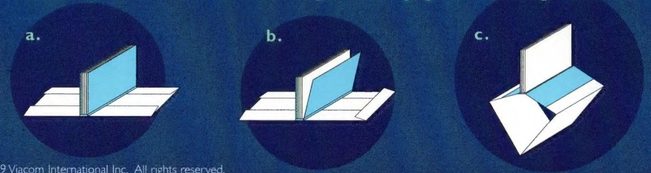

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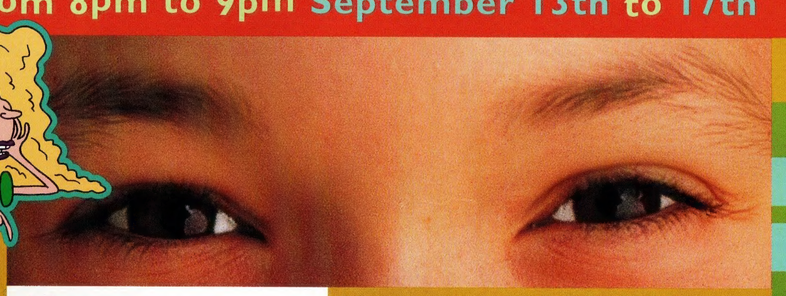

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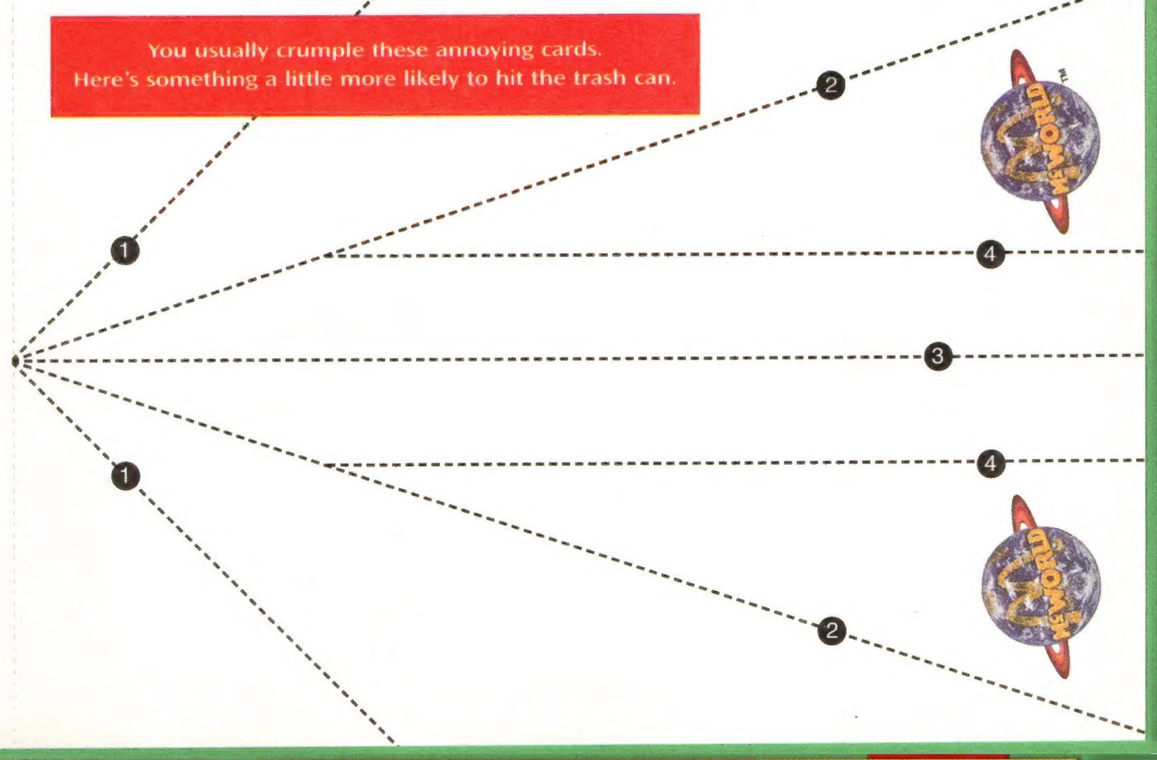

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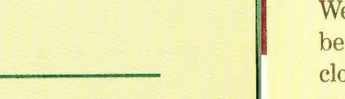

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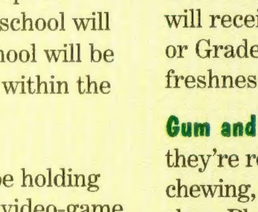

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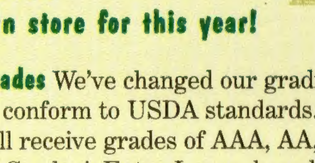

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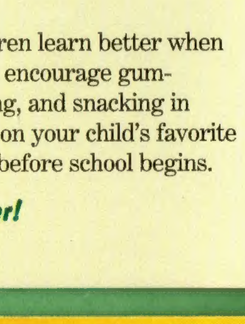
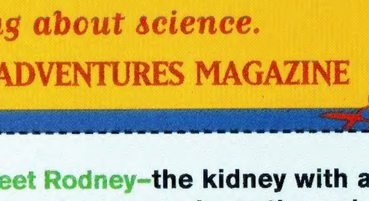


more smells!



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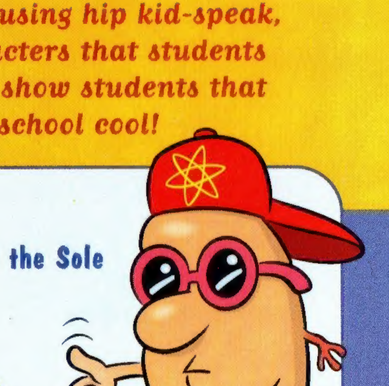


Dear Parent:

The first day of school is just around the corner. Here are some of the exciting new changes in store for this year!

New Hours The school day will begin at 11:15 AM and end at 1:45 PM, except on Wednesdays and Fridays, when school will be closed. During the winter, school will be closed if it is snowing anywhere within the continental United States.

New Location This year we will be holding classes at malls, movie theaters, video-game arcades, and other places where learning can be fun! Please call the school each morning to find out where to meet.

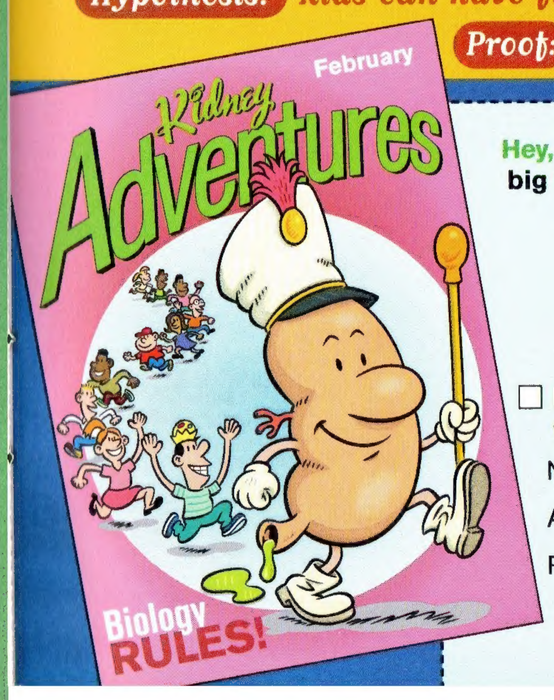
Grades We've changed our grading system to conform to USDA standards. Students will receive grades of AAA, AA, Grade A, or Grade A Extra Large, based on their freshness.

Gum and Candy Children learn better when they're relaxed, so we encourage gum-chewing, candy-sharing, and snacking in class. Please stock up on your child's favorite sweets and junk food before school begins.

See you in September!

Hypothesis: *Kids can have fun reading about science.*

Proof: KIDNEY ADVENTURES MAGAZINE



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* NBA Foot Fungus: A Single Cell's Journey Into the Sole
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